

SUPER Summer Issue! ★ 2 Fun Quizzes to Take

July/August 2010

American Girl

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Parents' Choice,
2009**



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Volume 18, Number 4

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Girls

E X P R E S S

Tree Pose

Go outside to practice nature-inspired yoga.



1. Stand tall with your feet together and your arms at your sides. Breathe in and shift your weight onto your left leg.



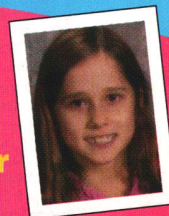
2. As you breathe out, bring your right foot up and turn your right knee out to the side. Rest your right foot on the inside of your left leg just below your knee. (Don't rest it at your knee.) This may take some practice, so don't worry if you lose your balance.



3. Raise your hands straight out from your sides, keeping your back straight and your stomach muscles tight. When you feel balanced, inhale and reach your hands all the way up so that your palms meet overhead.



4. Hold the pose for a count of ten. As you breathe out, slowly return your right foot to the ground. Repeat the pose on your other side.



Meet an
AG Reader

Isabel P.
Age 9, Virginia

I live with my mom and dad, my brother, and our cat, Dandyllon.

My favorite snack: cut-up apples dipped in organic peanut butter



A word my friends would use to describe me: **kind**

My favorite funny word: **"noodles"**

In 20 years, I'll be a **veterinarian and a stunt pilot.**

My favorite spot in my house is **my bed. It has a pink comforter and tons of stuffed animals.**

One thing people wouldn't guess about me: **My birthday is on the Fourth of July.**



My favorite part of AG: **the crafts—they're so creative!**

Introduce Yourself!

To find out how to be a featured reader, go to americangirlsmagazine.com and click on "Start the fun."

Illustrations: Tracey Wood



Karina K.
Age 14, Missouri

Pic Tricks

One girl photographer says you can find a great shot by looking at the world in new ways.

AG:

What helps you take good photographs?

Karina:

I'm very observant. I notice things that a lot of other people wouldn't. The other day I took a picture of a flower because I noticed that its petals were arranged differently. It didn't look like what you'd think a flower should look like. It was odd.

AG:

Do you ever take pictures of people?

Karina:

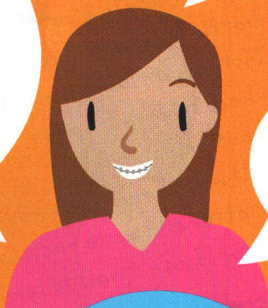
I do. I think the best pictures of people aren't posed. It's better to look for natural smiles and natural emotions.

AG:

What's your advice for girls who want to take good photos?

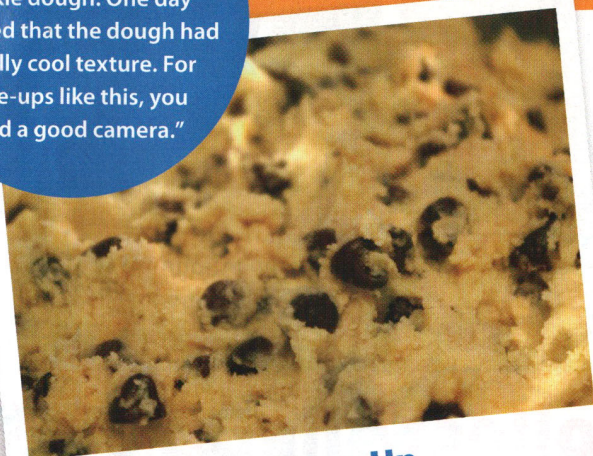
Karina:

Take LOTS of them!



Karina says,

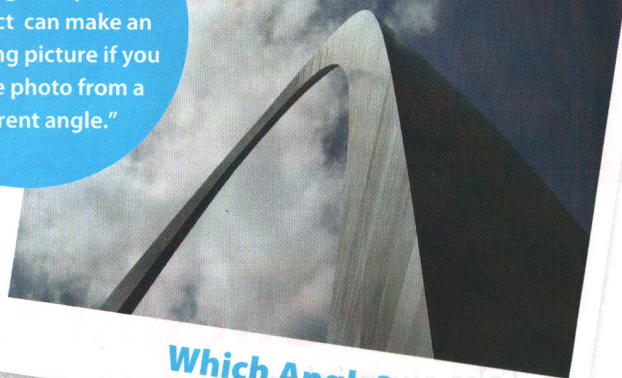
"I like to look for details and texture—and I love cookie dough. One day I noticed that the dough had a really cool texture. For close-ups like this, you need a good camera."



Go Close-Up

Karina says,

"Your point of view can change the picture. An object can make an interesting picture if you take the photo from a different angle."



Which Angle?

Karina says,

"Look at the white spots on the apple—most people wouldn't notice those outside a photo."



Show Off Details



Find Inspiration

Karina says,

"This pond is across the street from my house. I was out walking on a Sunday afternoon, and I liked how the pond reflected the blue sky. That's what made me take the picture."

True Story

One girl dropped a message into the ocean—and another girl found it!



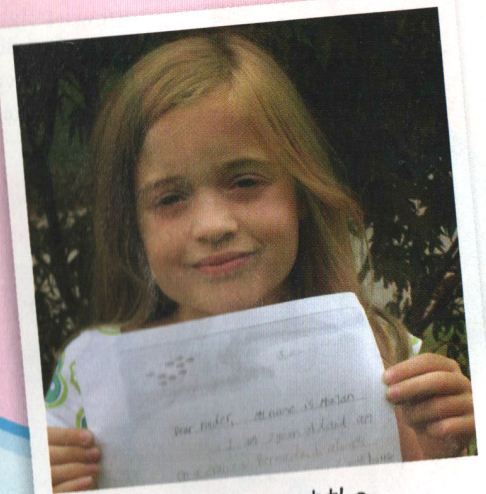
Dear American Girl,

Last summer, on a cruise to Bermuda, my dad gave me an idea about sending a message in a bottle. I wrote a letter asking the finder to write to me. Then I rolled up the letter, slid it into a plastic bottle, and twisted the top back on. I dropped it over the railing of the cruise ship and watched the bottle fall into the water. Later, my dad and I looked at a map of the ocean's currents. We thought the bottle might end up in Ireland.

About six weeks later, I was at home when I got a letter in the mail from a girl named Teddy. She had found my message in a bottle! Turns out the bottle went nowhere near Ireland. Instead, it floated to Massachusetts, where I live and where Teddy had been vacationing.

It was so much fun having someone find my letter and write back to me. I wrote to her, too. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Sincerely,
Meagan B.
Age 8, Massachusetts



Meagan sent the message in a bottle...

What Should You Collect?

Take our mini quiz to figure out which collectible is right for you.

1. List your favorite things. Put a check mark next to the objects on your list that are in your room.
2. Now check all items that
 - * hold good memories.
 - * make you smile.
 - * you don't like others to touch.
 - * you wouldn't trade for anything.
 - * show your personality.
3. Which object has the most check marks next to it? That's the thing you'll probably enjoy collecting.
4. Let everyone know what you're collecting. You never know what your neighbor might find in her attic or your aunt might spot while on vacation. Have fun!



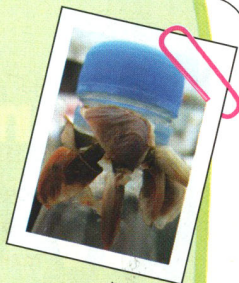
Dear American Girl,

For my birthday last year, I got a book about a girl who finds a message in a bottle. I loved the book, probably because I love everything about the ocean.

My family loves the water, too. Last summer, we left Colorado to visit the coast of Massachusetts. On a foggy boat ride one day, my dad spotted something floating in the water. I used a net to scoop up a bottle. It had animals in little shells stuck to it and a tiny red crab hanging on—and it had a letter inside! I put the animals back into the water and opened the bottle. The paper was still dry, and I read the message out loud to my family. Later, I wrote to the girl who had sent the message. I can hardly believe that what I'd read about in a book had actually happened to me!

Sincerely,

Teddy H.
Age 12, Colorado



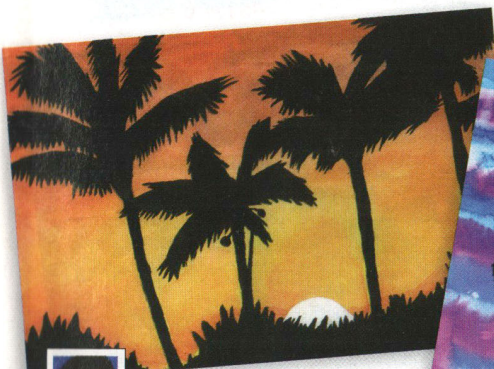
↑
The bottle,
right out of
the water



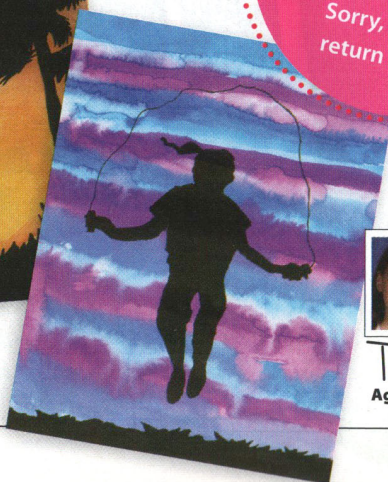
...and Teddy found the
message in a bottle!

AG Art Gallery

These readers found art
in silhouettes.



Alexis V.
Age 11, Michigan



Taylor S.
Age 11, Louisiana

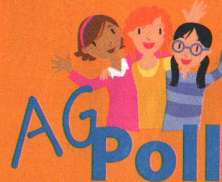
Help us fill our
gallery! Send color
copies of your **original**
artwork or photos to
the address on page 7.
Sorry, we can't
return entries.

Creative Corner

Message in a Bottle



Cut out card. Flip over for directions.



Answer these questions, and then turn the
page to see how your answers compare to
those of other AG readers.

What's your favorite thing to do at the pool?

- * swim laps
- * jump off the diving board
- * play games in the water
- * lie on a float

And at the beach?

- * swim in the water
- * build sand sculptures
- * play beach volleyball
- * search for shells

Message in a Bottle

Surprise a faraway friend with a super-special delivery. Start with a clean, dry 16- to 20-ounce **plastic soda bottle** with the label torn off. Put your **letter** inside, and replace the lid tightly. Tape the address and return address securely to the bottle with **clear packing tape**. Then take your bottle to the post office and have it sent by first-class mail. Your friend won't believe her eyes when she opens the mailbox!



Photos: Radlund Photography

AG Poll

What girls told us at

americangirlmagazine.com

Girls' picks for pool play:

43%

play games
in the water

37%

jump off the
diving board

11%

swim laps

9%

lie on a float

Girls' favorites for beachy fun:

59%

swim

22%

search for shells

12%

build sand
sculptures

7%

play beach
volleyball

To answer our weekly poll question, go to americangirlmagazine.com and click on "Fun for Girls."

Shining Stars

When Rachel E. and Naomi G. first started making tiny cupcake earrings, the cute jewelry was a big hit. "A lot of girls at school liked our earrings," says Naomi, age 11. "So we decided to have a craft sale."

The girls sculpted, baked, and painted tons of tiny charms—cute cupcakes, itty-bitty bananas, even adorable little asparagus spears. They used the charms to make earrings, bracelets, and necklaces. "Making doughnut charms and painting on frosting and sprinkles is my favorite," says Rachel, also 11.

Along with their jewelry for sale, the Massachusetts friends

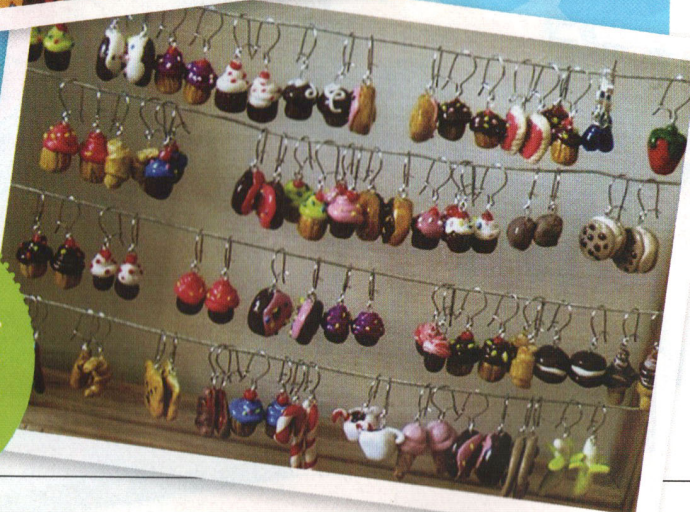
display four large coffee cans for donations. "Each can is labeled for a specific organization. This way, customers can choose where their money goes," explains Rachel. "We kept our prices really low so that everyone could afford them, and lots of people donated extra."

The girls have raised more than \$1,000 and donated it to four different charities. This year, they plan to hold a sale to benefit earthquake survivors in Haiti. "Sometimes people need help," says Naomi. "I'm glad I get to do craft sales and help others with Rachel. She's a great friend."



**You can
shine, too.**

You can sell more than just lemonade this summer. Pick the craft that you do the best, and make some to sell.



Super Summer Snacks

Treat yourself with our readers' great recipes.

Send your
yummy—and
easy—recipes
to the address
below.

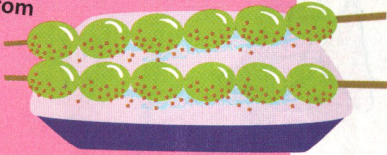
Reader Recipe

Great Grapes

Put six **grapes** on a short bamboo skewer. Place on a cookie sheet and freeze for about an hour. Remove from freezer and roll grapes in **lime juice** and **brown sugar**. Remove grapes from skewer to eat. Delicious!



Grace M.
Age 12, Washington



Reader Recipe

Everlasting Lemonade

Instead of making ice cubes with water, make them with **lemonade**. That way, when you drink your lemonade with ice, it won't get watered down. It's a tart treat!



Amanda W.
Age 14, Arizona



Reader Recipe

Chipper-Nutters

For a quick and easy treat, gently spread **peanut butter** onto regular potato chips. Crunch!



Jessy T.
Age 11, Georgia



Reader Recipe

Graham-wiches

Spread a dollop of **whipped topping** onto half a **graham cracker**. Put the other cracker on top to make a sandwich, place on wax paper, and freeze. Your sweet, chilly treat will be waiting for you!



Brittany S.
Age 12, Arizona



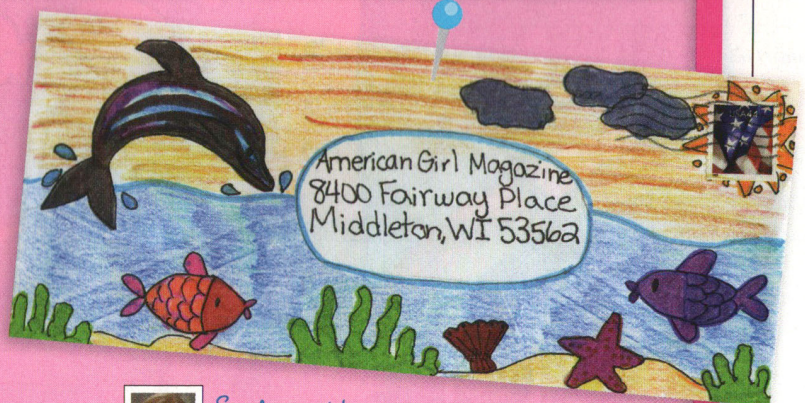
Write to Us

Be sure to include your

- * First and last name
- * Address and phone number
- * Birth date, including year
- * School photo or snapshot
- * Parent signature

Send us a cool envelope! Print our address neatly on the **front** and your return address on the **back**.

We can't print every letter, but we read everything you send to us. Hope to hear from you soon! ★



Envelope art by
Jacy E.
Age 13, Iowa



Hit the Beach!

We've been swimming in a sea of cool, colorful, and creative towels made by girls like you. These "shore" were our favorites!



Beachy Keen

Gabrielle G.
Age 13, California



Splash Zone

Ave P.
Age 13, Wisconsin



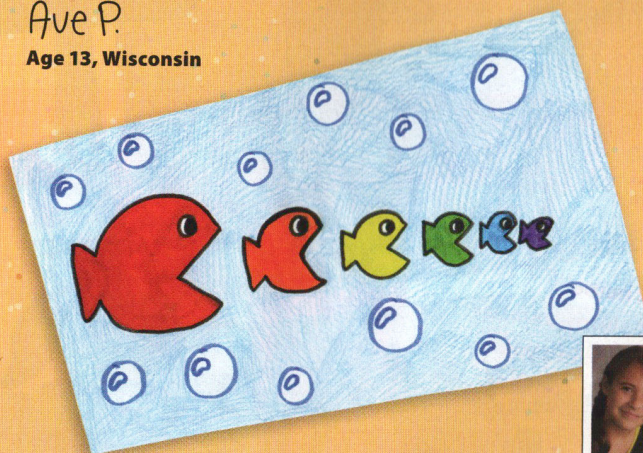
Cupcake Break

Caroline R.
Age 12, Texas



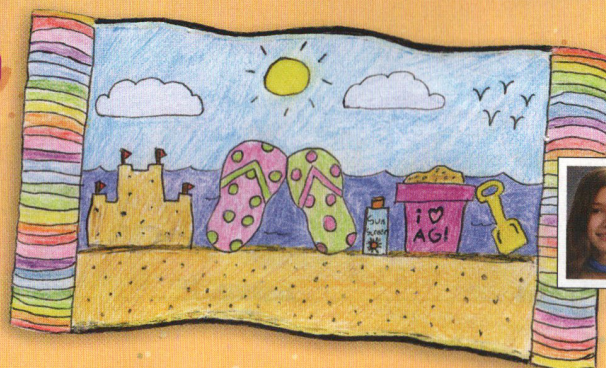
Palm Paradise

Tess C.
Age 7, Rhode Island



Rainbow Fish

Sophie C.
Age 12, Maine



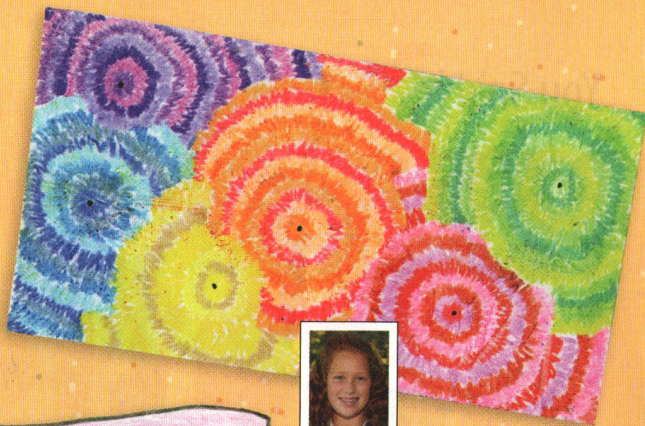
Flip-Flop Fun

Erin F.
Age 12, Kansas



Sun Spot

Alexandra L.
Age 11, Connecticut



Flashy Fireworks

Isabella U.
Age 11, New Jersey



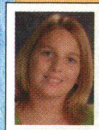
Sunset Sands

Katie P.
Age 13, Michigan



Summer Snow

Rachel S.
Age 12, Michigan



Sand Art

Kelsey E.
Age 11, North Carolina



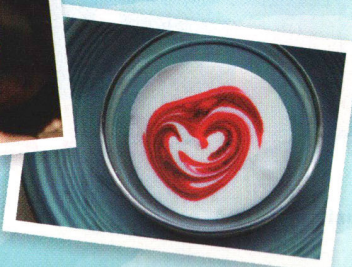
Pretty Petals

Joclin R.
Age 11, Rhode Island



New Contest: Heart Photos

Hearts are all around you if you just know where to look. Perhaps you will see a cookie, a paint splatter, or two cats cuddled together that look just like a heart. Find something that is heart-shaped, or create it yourself, and snap a photo. Send your pictures (taken by YOU) along with a description of what is in each picture and where you found it to the address on page 7, along with your first and last name, address, school photo, and birth date. **Postmark deadline: August 10, 2010.** **Winners will appear in the January/February 2011 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.**



What's your dream vacation spot?

If I got to go on my dream vacation, I would go to Hawaii. I'd go surfing and relax on the beach. I think Hawaii would be a magical place to visit.



Ashley S.
Age 8, New Jersey

I'd go to Paris! I'd start my day by eating brunch in a beautiful café, and then I'd go see all the famous sights. At the end of the day, I'd watch the sunset from the Eiffel Tower.



Octavia C.
Age 10, North Carolina

I'd go to Australia and would go snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef.



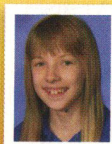
Sarah G.
Age 10, Rhode Island

My dream vacation would be to go to Hollywood. I would love to see people make TV shows and meet stars!



Liana S.
Age 11, Tennessee

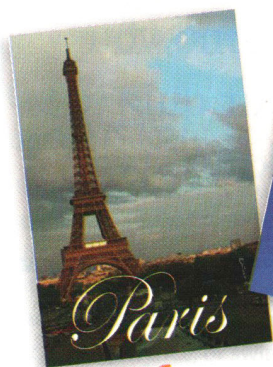
My dream is to go to Africa so that I can go on a safari and take pictures of lions and zebras.



Mikayla R.
Age 10, Georgia



These are the top three places
readers wish they could visit:



#1



#2



#3

Girls Around the World

I'd like to go to Hungary. My family is originally from there, and it would be cool to see all the old castles.



Annemarie P.
Age 10, Indiana

I wish I could go to New York City to see a real Broadway show.



Reilly D.
Age 11, Florida

I would go to Ireland on my dream vacation to see a professional Irish dance competition.



Marissa H.
Age 12, Colorado

My dream is to visit Stratford-upon-Avon in England. It's the birthplace of William Shakespeare, and I'd love to see his house.



Anna C.
Age 12, Arkansas

Egypt is my dream destination. I would see the pyramids and cool artifacts, take a boat down the Nile River, and go on a camel ride.



Kathleen S.
Age 13, Colorado

I think it would be amazing to go zip-lining in Costa Rica.



Elise P.
Age 9, Maryland

I would swim with the dolphins in the Bahamas.



Julia C.
Age 10, New York

It would be a dream to go to Milan, Italy, and see all of the fashion shows.



Sydney S.
Age 10, Maryland

Next question!



Rachel Q.

This question is from 10-year-old Rachel Q. of Michigan: "If you were to see a shooting star in the sky, what would you wish for, and why?"

Send your answers to the address on page 7. Postmark deadline: August 10, 2010. Some answers will appear in the January/February 2011 issue. ★

Have you always wanted to know something about other *American Girl* readers? Send us your questions, and you may be featured in an upcoming issue!

State Fair Favorites

Where would we find you at the fair? Take our quiz to find your fun-seeking style.

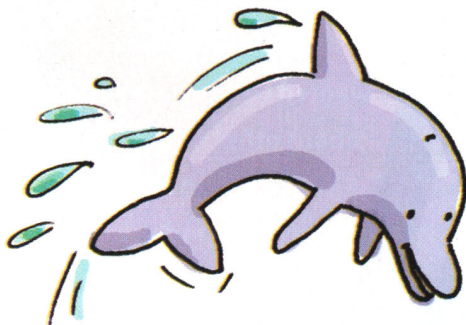
1. You're at a slumber party. To make your friends smile, you



- a. jump up and sing the entire alphabet opera-style. "Whyyyyyyy, zeeeeeee!"
- b. tell your friends about something embarrassing that happened to you—embarrassing but hilarious.
- c. show everyone the raggedy old stuffed dog you sleep with. Sure, he's missing an eye, but it makes him funny-cute.

2. You're at a marine park. During the splash-tastic dolphin show, you sit

- a. in the front row, baby! The wetter, the better.
- b. toward the middle. You want to see the show—not be shown the sea!
- c. way in the back, next to the merchandise stand. Those stuffed dolphins are a-DOR-able.



3. You're at recess. The bell rings, and you

- a. rush over from the grassy play area, grinning (and sweating just a little).
- b. put down the sidewalk chalk—you and your friend can finish your tic-tac-toe tournament later.
- c. stroll inside, still chatting with your friends about the new posters you want for your room.



4. You're at a neighborhood carnival. There's a sign-up sheet for volunteers, and you choose to

- a. be the assistant in the magic show. Presto!
- b. run the ringtoss game. Who's a winner?
- c. work in the face-painting stand. Get your sparkly stars here!

5. You're at home. Your family has no plans for the evening, so you suggest

- a. a backyard football game. The victory dance starts here!
- b. a board-game marathon. One million bucks, here you come!
- c. a cartoon movie night. Can you actually laugh your head off? Time to find out!

6. You're on your dream vacation. You look out your window and see

- a. snowy mountains. You'll be hitting the snowboard hill before your coat's even zipped.
- b. tall buildings. You're on a mission to fill your camera with unusual city shots before sunset.
- c. the sparkling sea. You're on a relaxing cruise, and you can't wait to put on your new pink swimsuit.

7. You're at a monster movie. During a tense scene, you

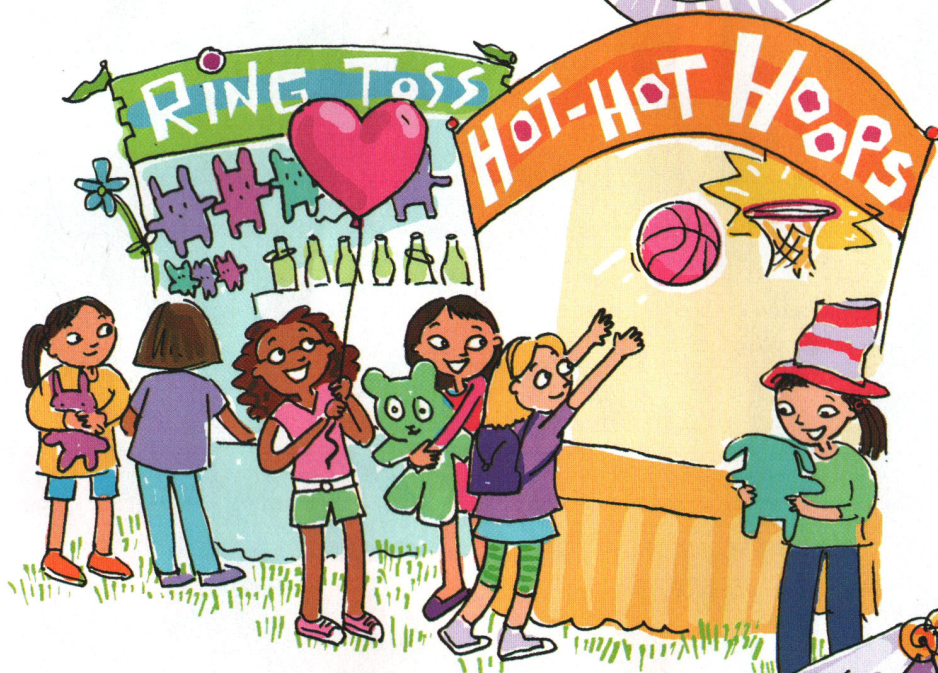
- a. grab your friend's arm, just to make her jump. And maybe scream.
- b. laugh at the phony special effects. So fake.
- c. cover your eyes. YIKES!



Answers

Mostly a's Coaster Queen

Hello, Miss Daring—bet we would find you high atop the Screamin' Sky Spinner, probably for the sixth time! When it comes to fun, you tend to jump right in. You have lots of energy, and you seek excitement. You'd climb a rock wall, perform in front of an audience, or swim with a dolphin. You're a girl who likes daring fun—bring it on!



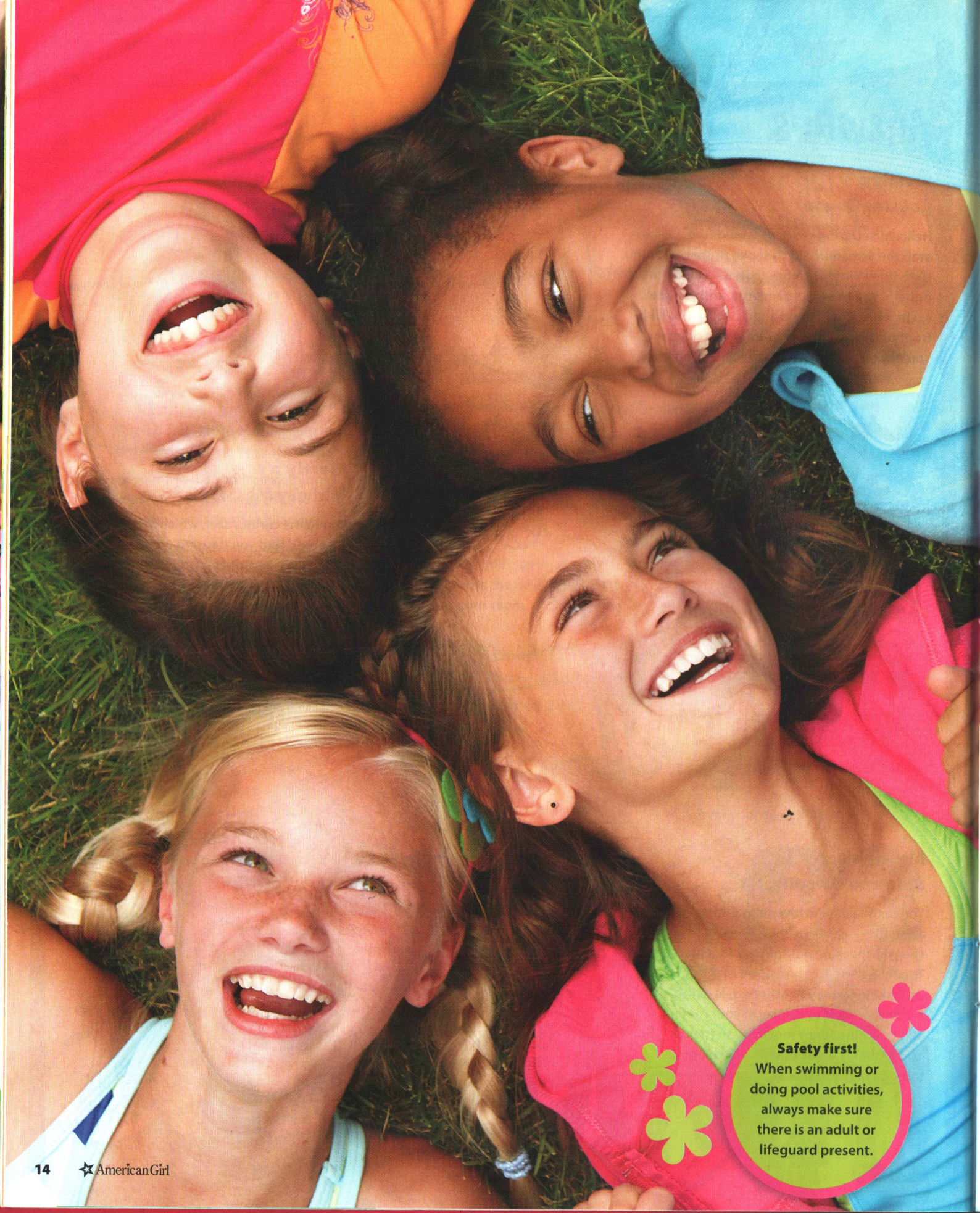
Mostly b's Midway Master

You're the curious sort, which means that we'd find you figuring out the trick to beating the Hot-Hot Hoops basketball challenge. Your problem-busting brain likes video games as well as board games and puzzles, and you probably love making up games to play outside. You're not afraid to go exploring, either—but nothing too crazy.

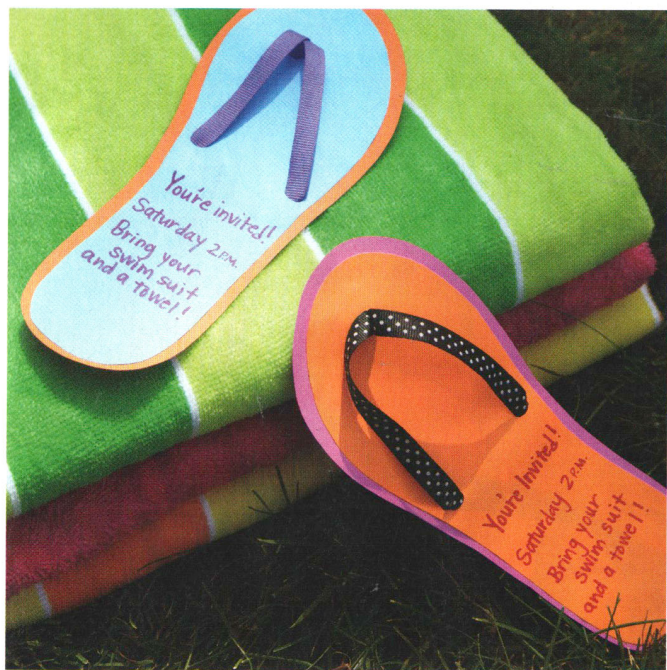
Mostly c's Souvenir Sweetheart

You're the girl who loves everything adorable—which means that we'd see you checking out the cute loot at Totally Terrific Treasures. You find fun by making jewelry or other art, looking for unique stuff to display in your room, and watching funny movies with friends. You probably enjoy people-watching, too—so much to see. ★





Safety first!
When swimming or
doing pool activities,
always make sure
there is an adult or
lifeguard present.



Invitations

Trace a flip-flop on a piece of colored paper and cut it out. Punch 3 holes in the paper flip-flop. String 2 ribbons through the holes and tape the ends to the back. Glue the paper flip-flop to another piece of paper. Cut around it to make a border. Let dry. Write party details on the front—tell your guests to come dressed to get wet!

Party Favors

Fill small sand pails with favors such as seashells, saltwater taffy, shell beads, water squirters, and mini beach balls.



Splash Bash

Have a beach party at the pool!

Towel Tote

Here's a fun way to tote your towel. Cut two 20-inch pieces of belting (a trim available at fabric stores), and one 20-inch piece of ribbon. On each piece of belting, attach a 5-inch strip of adhesive VELCRO® brand hook-and-loop fastener at one end. Turn over both belting pieces and attach strips at the opposite ends. Lay the belting and ribbon on a table, forming an "H" shape. Tie each end of the ribbon to a metal keychain ring. Slide each ring onto one piece of belting. Now fold your beach towel in half and roll it up. Place the towel on top of the ribbon, fasten the belting around it, and pick it up by the ribbon strap!



Sunny Day Cookies

Serve up some sunshine! Right before you're ready to eat, spread whipped topping on plain sugar cookies. Drain a can of mandarin oranges and a can of pineapple tidbits. Arrange the fruit in a sun shape on top of each cookie.

Sparkler Slush

 Cool off fast with this icy drink. In a pitcher, mix 4 envelopes of unsweetened powdered drink mix with 1 cup of sugar and 2 cups of water. Ask an adult to crush ice in a blender. Spoon the crushed ice into glasses. Pour the drink mixture over the ice until the glasses are half-full. Then fill the rest of each glass with lemon-lime soda. Slurp it with a fun straw.



Dessert Island

Make your own pudding paradise. Put graham crackers into a sealed plastic bag and crush with a rolling pin. Remove the lid from a pudding cup and pour the crushed grahams on top of the pudding. Place a cookie stick in the cup. With clean scissors, carefully cut four leaves out of green taffy candy. Pinch the leaves together at one end. Use a small amount of icing to attach the leaves to the top of the cookie stick. Place two chocolate candies in the "sand" for "coconuts."

Beachy Bracelets

Send your friends home with beach souvenirs. Use elastic cording, beads, and shell shapes (all available at craft stores) to make shimmering bracelets in tropical colors.



Beach Ball Bop

You'll need a partner for this zany race! Each set of partners holds a beach ball between their bellies or their backs. Either way, you can't use your hands!

On "Go!" everyone races to the end of the yard and back. If you drop the ball, it's OK to pick it up and reposition it. The first team to cross the finish line yells, "Bop!"





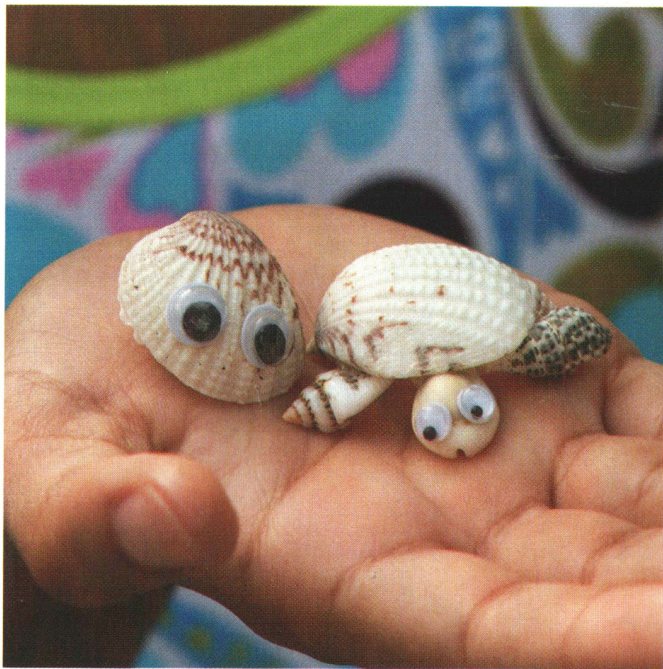
Lifeguard Says

Play "Simon Says" in a pool! One girl is the "lifeguard" and she tells the other players what to do. The other players stand in the shallow end and perform the action only if the lifeguard says, "lifeguard says" first. If a girl performs the action without hearing "lifeguard says," the lifeguard blows her whistle, and the player is out until the next game. The last player in the pool is the new lifeguard.

Yard Hockey

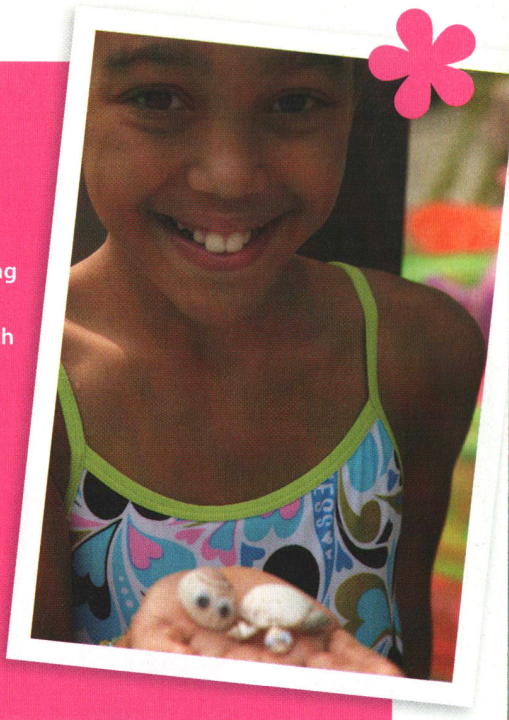
No ice in sight? Play hockey on the grass. Place a beach towel at each end of the yard for goals. Divide into two teams and use foam noodles to try to hit a beach ball onto the opposite team's goal.





Sea Pets

Turn seashells into petite pals. Make clams, sea turtles, and more by attaching shells to one another with Glue Dots. Attach googly eyes with additional Glue Dots. Let dry. Don't forget to name your pets!



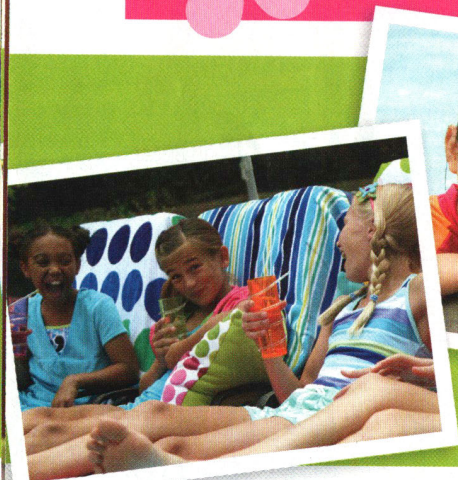
Flower Flair

Dress up a headband or flip-flops with some bright blooms. Use a marker to draw a flower on a piece of felt. Draw a smaller flower on a different-colored piece of felt. Cut out the shapes and turn them over. Cut a small circle of tulle and layer it between the felt shapes. Glue the 3 pieces together with fabric glue. Finish by attaching a sparkly rhinestone on top with glue. Let dry. Using Glue Dots, attach the flower to your favorite summertime accessory.



Wet & Wild Relay

Show your speed in a water relay race. First divide into teams. Then each team forms a line and gets an inner tube, a boogie board, and a beach ball. On "Go!" the first players in line grab the inner tubes and swim to the end of the pool and back. The second players grab the boogie boards and swim to the end of the pool and back. The third players grab the beach balls and swim to the end of the pool and back. The team that finishes all three laps first wins!



Musical Towels

Play musical chairs with a twist. Lay beach towels in a row on the ground. The number of towels should be one fewer than the number of girls. Ask an adult to play music while you walk around the row. When the music stops, each person has to lie on a towel—only one person per towel. Whoever isn't lying on a towel when the music stops is out. Take away a towel and restart the music. Play until there is only one girl left.

Totally Tubular

For this game, you'll need a helping hand or two! Stand in a line and give the first girl an inner tube. On "Go!" she has to put the inner tube over the next girl in line. Then that girl steps out of the inner tube and puts it over the next girl. Set a timer to see how quickly you can send it down the line!

Mermaid Mix-up

Go on a treasure hunt—mermaid-style! To begin, fill plastic eggs with small seashells and toss them gently into the shallow end of a pool (they will float). Each team of “mermaids” needs a small bucket to set at the edge of the pool.

On “Splash!” all players jump into the pool and try to collect as many plastic eggs as possible in three minutes. Each player can only grab one egg at a time, and she has to swim back to “shore” to dump the seashells in her team’s bucket.

If she finds an empty egg, or if she has emptied the seashells from an egg, she should close it and place it back in the pool to trick the other mermaids. At the end, count all the seashells. The team with the most shells wins. ★



Sea Doodles

Grab a pencil and create an underwater world full of colorful creatures!

Seahorse

1. Draw a tall 3 with a curly end.

2. Starting at the top of the 3, add a sideways curvy V for the nose. Then draw a C for a belly.

3. Draw a curving line to finish the tail. Add lines for stripes and a dot for an eye. Now she's in the swim!

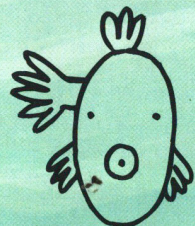
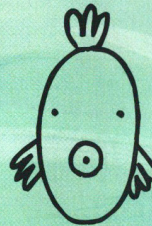
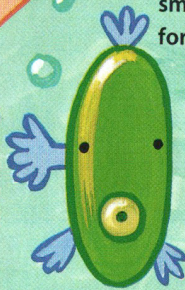


Funny Fish

1. Draw an oval. Draw a small circle inside. Add dots for eyes and the mouth.

2. Draw a tall scribble at the top for a fin. Add smaller scribbles on each side for flippers.

3. Draw two short, sideways lines above the left flipper. Add a scribble to finish the tail. Here she comes!

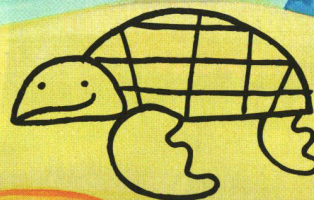


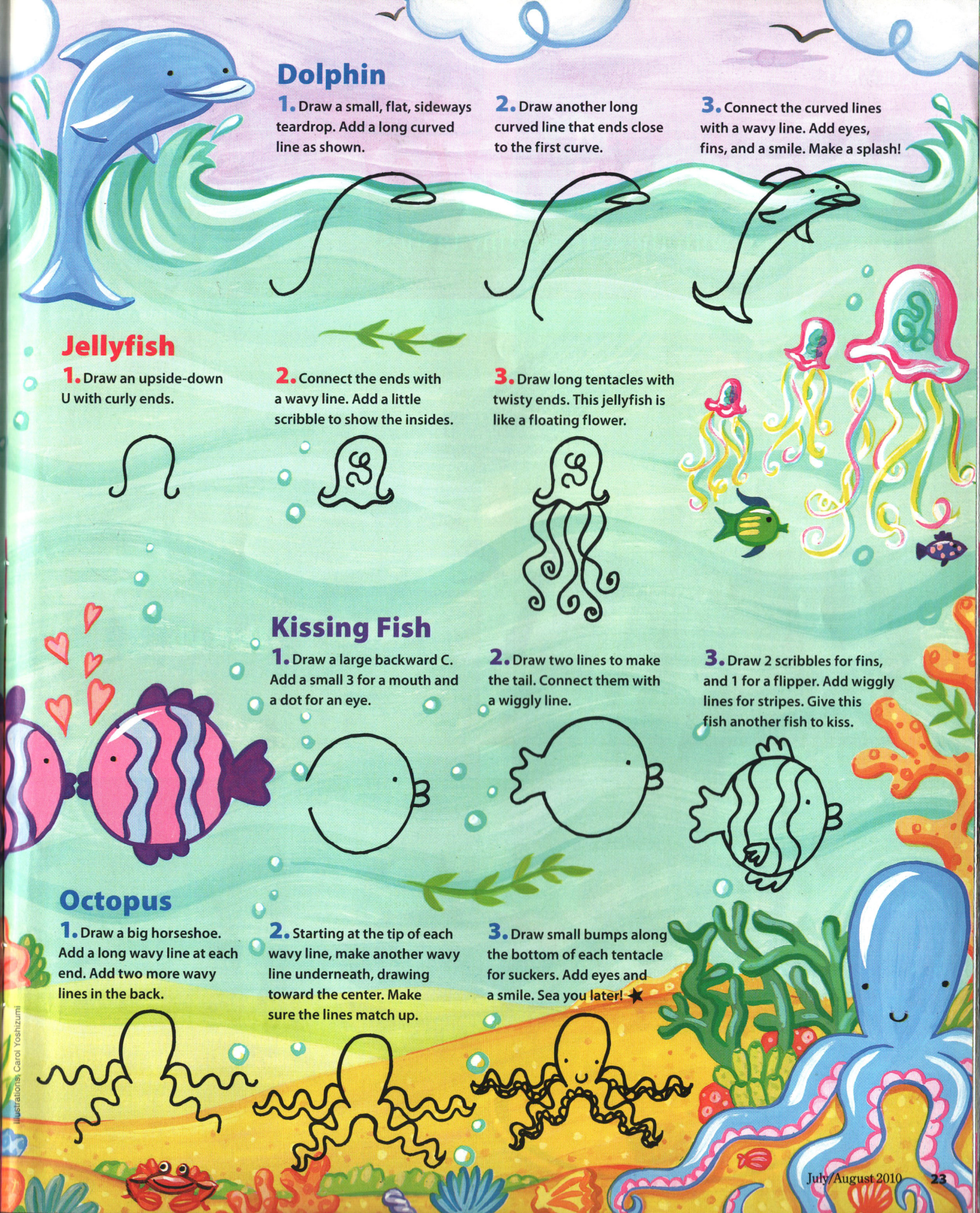
Turtle

1. Draw a small, sideways D. Add eyes and a smile. Draw a big curved line on the side.

2. Draw a squished letter C. Connect the top of the C to the curved line with a straight line.

3. Finish the big flipper with a wavy line. Add a smaller flipper. Draw boxes on the shell. Toodle-oo!





Dolphin

1. Draw a small, flat, sideways teardrop. Add a long curved line as shown.

2. Draw another long curved line that ends close to the first curve.

3. Connect the curved lines with a wavy line. Add eyes, fins, and a smile. Make a splash!

Jellyfish

1. Draw an upside-down U with curly ends.

2. Connect the ends with a wavy line. Add a little scribble to show the insides.

3. Draw long tentacles with twisty ends. This jellyfish is like a floating flower.

Kissing Fish

1. Draw a large backward C. Add a small 3 for a mouth and a dot for an eye.

2. Draw two lines to make the tail. Connect them with a wiggly line.

3. Draw 2 scribbles for fins, and 1 for a flipper. Add wiggly lines for stripes. Give this fish another fish to kiss.

Octopus

1. Draw a big horseshoe. Add a long wavy line at each end. Add two more wavy lines in the back.

2. Starting at the tip of each wavy line, make another wavy line underneath, drawing toward the center. Make sure the lines match up.

3. Draw small bumps along the bottom of each tentacle for suckers. Add eyes and a smile. Sea you later! ★

Wee Sweets

Treat yourself with these teeny-tiny tasties!

Cutie Cake

Serve up this dinky dessert! Use a butter knife to spread chocolate frosting on one side of a chocolate sandwich cookie. Lay a second cookie on top of the frosted side. Frost the top and sides of the stack. Crush a walnut with the back of a spoon, and sprinkle the nuts around the edge of the cake. Let soften overnight, then slice with a butter knife.



Photos: Radlund Photography

Small S'mores

 Love these teeny campfire favorites! Lay a mini marshmallow on a graham-flavored cereal square and a chocolate chip on another cereal square. Put the pieces on a microwavable plate. Ask an adult to heat the s'more in a microwave for 8 to 10 seconds. Then squish the pieces together.



Little Kiss Cookies

 These cute cookies taste as good as their larger cousins. With an adult's help, preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Using your clean hands, roll marble-size pieces of refrigerated peanut butter cookie dough in sugar, and lay them on a baking sheet. Ask an adult to bake cookies for about 6 minutes. Top each cookie with a chocolate chip after the adult takes the pan out of the oven. Let cool.



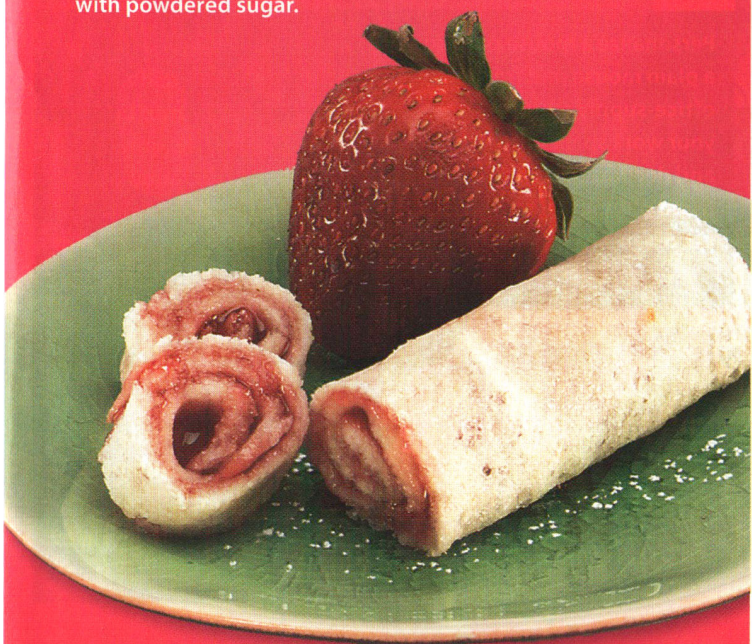
Itty-Bitty Ice Creams

One dip or two? Use a melon baller to form tiny scoops of ice cream, and serve them in cone-shaped corn snacks.

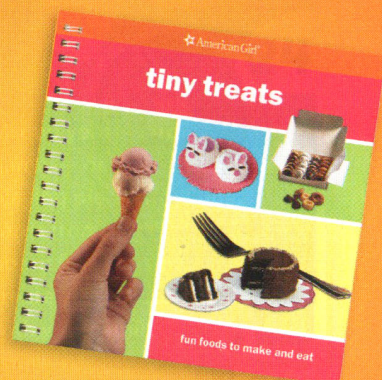


Mini Jelly Roll

It's a bite-size afternoon snack! Remove crusts from a slice of white bread, and flatten the bread with your hands. Spread jelly over the slice, and roll it up. Cut the roll into small pieces with a butter knife. Finish by dusting with powdered sugar.



Even more itty-bitty bites can be found in ***Tiny Treats***, available in bookstores. ★



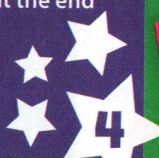
Top 100

July

You'll be sure to bust your boredom this summer with these fun-filled activities!

Sunday

Happy Fourth of July!
Today, add patriotic flair to your hair. Put red, white, and blue elastics at the end of a braid.



Monday

Throw a splashy party with your pals! Turn to page 14 for ideas.



Tuesday

Put up a tropical garland in your room. Take several Hawaiian leis and cut them open to make long strands. Tie the strands together, and hang the garland around a bulletin board.

6



It's National Ice Cream Day. Celebrate by creating a unique sundae. Sprinkle popcorn or your favorite breakfast cereal on your ice cream.

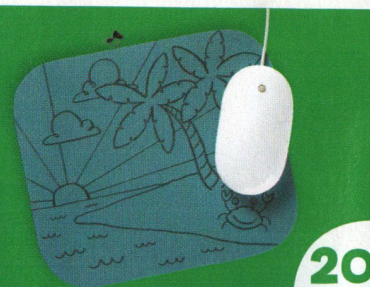
18

Watch a movie with a friend and pick a word that may be said repeatedly. If one of you catches the word first, write it down. Count the number of times you each heard the word first, and the winner gets a treat.



13

Personalize a mouse pad. Buy a plain mouse pad from an office-supply store. Cover your work space with paper and decorate the mouse pad using permanent markers. Let dry.



20

Wear the colors of a sunset all summer long. String pink, orange, yellow, and red beads onto elastic cord to fit your ankle.



26

Make up a dance with your friends today. Wear colorful sunglasses and dance to a song with a summer theme. Ask a parent to videotape your performance!

27



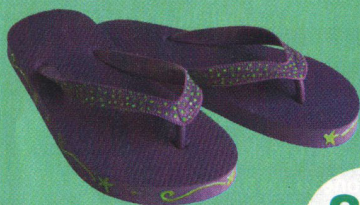
Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Wednesday

Make flip-flops that look like a starry sky. Use glow-in-the-dark puffy paint to draw moons and stars on the sides and straps of each flip-flop. Wear these at night so that everyone can see them glow!



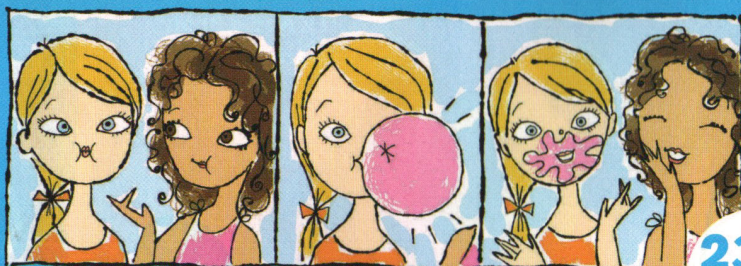
8



Make a fuzzy ring. At a discount store or a party store, purchase a plain plastic ring. Use Glue Dots to attach one or more colorful pom-poms to the ring. It'll add a pop of color to any outfit.

15

Think of a funny thing that has happened to you and turn it into a comic strip. Show the strip to your friends and family and make them laugh.



23

Make a friend laugh by hosting a nature-channel show in your backyard. For example, you could make a joke and say, "I'm voyaging into the jungle to find the rare Glup-Glup bird." When your friend laughs, it's her turn to be the host.

28

Go to a gift shop in your hometown and buy a silly postcard. Send it to a faraway friend.



29



Choose a scene from a favorite movie and ask siblings or friends to re-create it in front of your family. It'll be reel-y fun!

2

Instead of root beer, use orange, grape, or cherry-flavored soda with vanilla ice cream to make a float.



16

Make a shirt to wear for the Fourth of July. Use brightly colored fabric paint to draw fireworks on a black shirt. Put paper inside the shirt to prevent paint from going through it. Let dry.

3



Imagine that you are a scientist in a submarine at the bottom of the ocean, and you discover a never-before-seen sea creature. Draw the creature, and be sure to give it a name, too!



24

Mix up your board games—on purpose! Take playing pieces from one, cards from another, and a board from another, and create a whole new game with your family.

31

50 Top 10

August

Sunday

Today is **Sisters' Day**. Ask your sister(s) or a friend you love like a sis to do something fun, such as baking cupcakes or creating a cute craft together.

1

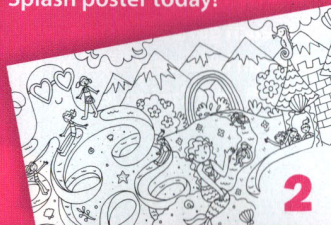


Buy a plastic pink flamingo at a garden store and dress it up! Use Glue Dots to attach accessories, such as a plastic Hawaiian lei or sunglasses. Then ask a parent if you can put it in the backyard.

29

Monday

Color in AG's Summer Splash poster today!

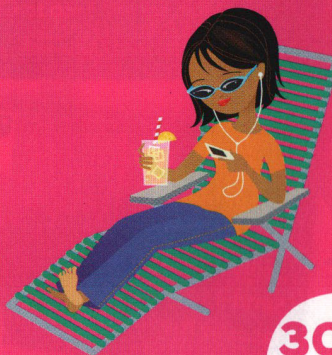


There's a **new moon** tonight. With no moonlight, it's the perfect evening for stargazing with friends. See who can find the first star. The one to spy the first star gets to make the first wish, the one to see the second star gets the second wish, etc.

9



August is **Audio Book Appreciation Month**. Go to the library and pick up the audio version of a book you enjoy.



30

Tuesday

Take a picture from an ant's point of view. Lie on the grass and take a photo at your eye level. When you look at the photo, you just might see what the world looks like to a tiny bug.



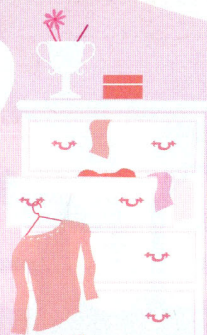
Make a pancake shake. Put 4 scoops of vanilla ice cream, a graham cracker, a splash of milk, and a drizzle of maple syrup into a blender. Ask an adult to blend until smooth. Top with berries and whipped cream.

17



With a friend, decorate canvas bags using markers, rhinestones, felt shapes, etc. Then exchange bags. You'll carry your friend's creation, and she'll carry yours. It's a fun twist on the friendship bracelet. ★

31



Wednesday

Thursday

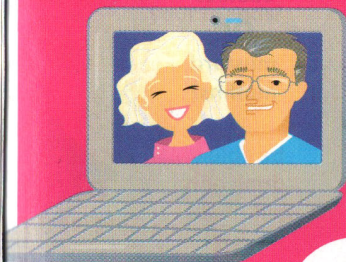
Friday

Saturday

Flip through a clothing catalogue and cut out pictures of cute outfits. Go into your closet and try to re-create those outfits from your own clothes. It's like shopping without leaving your house.

4

Instead of calling your grandparents on the phone, talk to them on the computer using video chat. Surprise them by wearing silly sunglasses and a funny hat. They're sure to laugh!



18

Add a little pizzazz to a plain plastic headband. Attach lots of stick-on rhinestones and get ready to sparkle!



12

Create crazy outfits with friends. Put hats, jewelry, sunglasses, and other accessories into piles. Ask your friends to close their eyes as they choose one item from each pile. When each girl has put on her items, take funny pictures of one another!

19

Throw a fruit salad picnic with friends. Ask each girl to bring a fruit, and then combine all the fruits into one fruit salad. Enjoy the fruit salad together on a blanket in your backyard.

6

It's **Friday the 13th**! Make a good-luck charm. Find a plain key chain at a craft store and attach to it anything that you think might bring you luck, such as a ladybug charm or a pet's photo. Carry it when you need extra luck.

13



20

Happy National Mustard Day! Try this sweet mustard dip: Combine 2 tablespoons of yellow mustard with 2 tablespoons of sour cream, and add squirts of honey to taste. Stir and eat with pretzels.

7



14

Think of your own To Do Today activities and send them to the address on page 7. We'd love to feature some of your ideas on a future To Do Today calendar!

21

Doodle a shape with your eyes closed. Once you're done, ask a friend or sibling to turn your scribble into a picture of an actual thing, such as a cat or a house. Take turns and make lots of doodles.

25



Ask a friend to stand with a bucket about 5 feet away from you. Toss as many water balloons into the bucket as you can without breaking them. Do this for one minute, and then switch. The one with the most unbroken balloons wins.



27

Go to the pool with pals dressed in rainbow colors! Wear brightly colored swimsuits, swim goggles, bandannas, flip-flops, and anything else you can think of. Be sure to snap a photo!

28



This or That?

Choose your favorite kooky options in our 50-question blowout!

Yourself

Would you rather...

shrink to the size of an ant

OR

grow as tall as a giraffe?

know what people are thinking

OR

be able to see the future?

get to take a cold shower every day

OR

a hot shower only once a week?

have bright blue teeth

OR

bright blue hair?

be banned from the computer for a year

OR

not allowed to eat sweets for a year?

have feet with wheels on them

OR

eyes that could see clearly in the dark?

sneeze 1,000 times in one day

OR

hiccup 1,000 times?

be on a winning team that always played in the rain

OR

on a losing team that always played in sunshine?

have to make up a song in front of your class

OR

have to make up a dance?

have wings

OR

a tail?

Foods

Would you rather...

eat a slightly burned cupcake

OR

a bowl of completely melted ice cream?

be able to eat with only a fork

OR

only a spoon?

eat breakfast foods at supper for a week

OR

supper foods for breakfast?

have two wonderful meals a day

OR

three meals that were only so-so?

eat only chips

OR

only cookies for the rest of your life?

sprinkle chocolate chips

OR

pepper on every food you ate?

be able to eat only your three favorite foods for a year

OR

not be able to eat any of them for a year?

eat ketchup cookies

OR

mustard muffins?

be able to drink only milk shakes

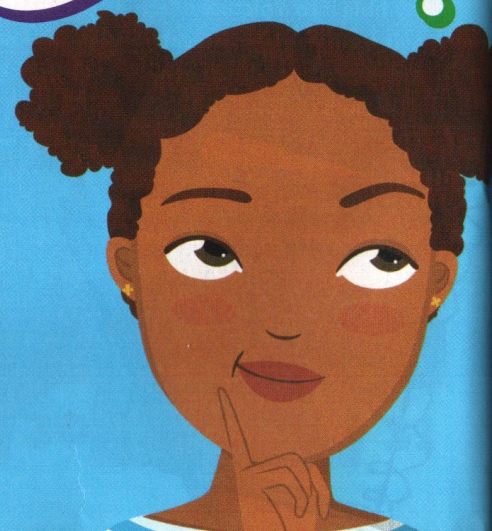
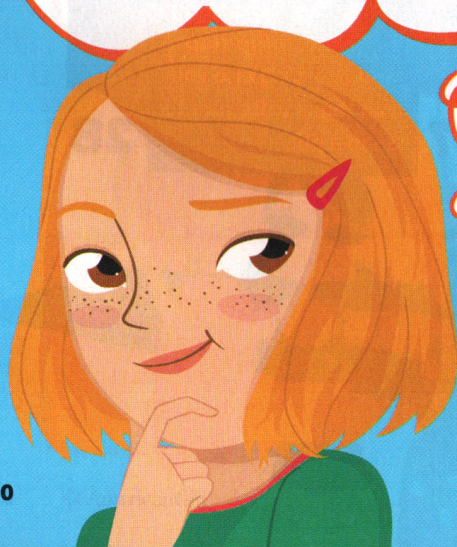
OR

only orange juice?

eat squid

OR

frog legs?



Animals

Would you rather...

have an eagle
steal your dinner

OR

a bear sleep in
your bed?

be chased by
an ostrich

OR

sprayed by
an elephant?

run a
snake farm

OR

a lizard
ranch?

meet a
talking pig

OR

a dancing
chicken?

find a
unicorn

OR

a winged
horse?

be able to speak
dog language

OR

cat language?

have a giraffe

OR

a flamingo
as a pet?

play with
dolphins

OR

sea otters?

fly with a
hummingbird

OR

a bumblebee?

own a
pink tiger

OR

a green
zebra?

Future

Would you rather...

live in a giant
house all by
yourself

OR

in a tiny house
with a bunch of
your friends?

take a one-week
vacation to a
faraway country

OR

a one-month
tour of the
United States?

have a job that gave
you new clothes to
wear every day

OR

a job for which you
had to wear a
wetsuit every day?

become famous
for doing
something kind

OR

for doing
something wacky?

be given \$10,000
right now

OR

\$10 a week
for the rest
of your life?

write a famous
book

OR

design the
world's tallest
building?

win a sports
medal

OR

a music award?

live in a town
with a million
people

OR

a hundred
people?

have one entire
wall in your
house be a TV

OR

a window?

be a
millionaire

OR

a genius?

Adventure

Would you rather...

be a tightrope
walker

OR

a trapeze artist?

be able to fly

OR

be able to turn
invisible?

live in a tree house

OR

an underwater
house?

go to outer space

OR

to the
ocean floor?

skip around the
block wearing a
princess costume

OR

a clown suit?

drive a go-kart
to school

OR

ride a bed on
wheels to school?

walk the plank
on a pirate ship

OR

fall down a rabbit
hole to another
world?

cross a rickety
bridge with a troll
beneath it

OR

spend a night in a
castle with a ghost?

go bungee jumping

OR

be shot out
of a cannon?

read a million-
page book

OR

take a million-
question quiz?

Now would you rather...

send us your funniest
this-or-that questions

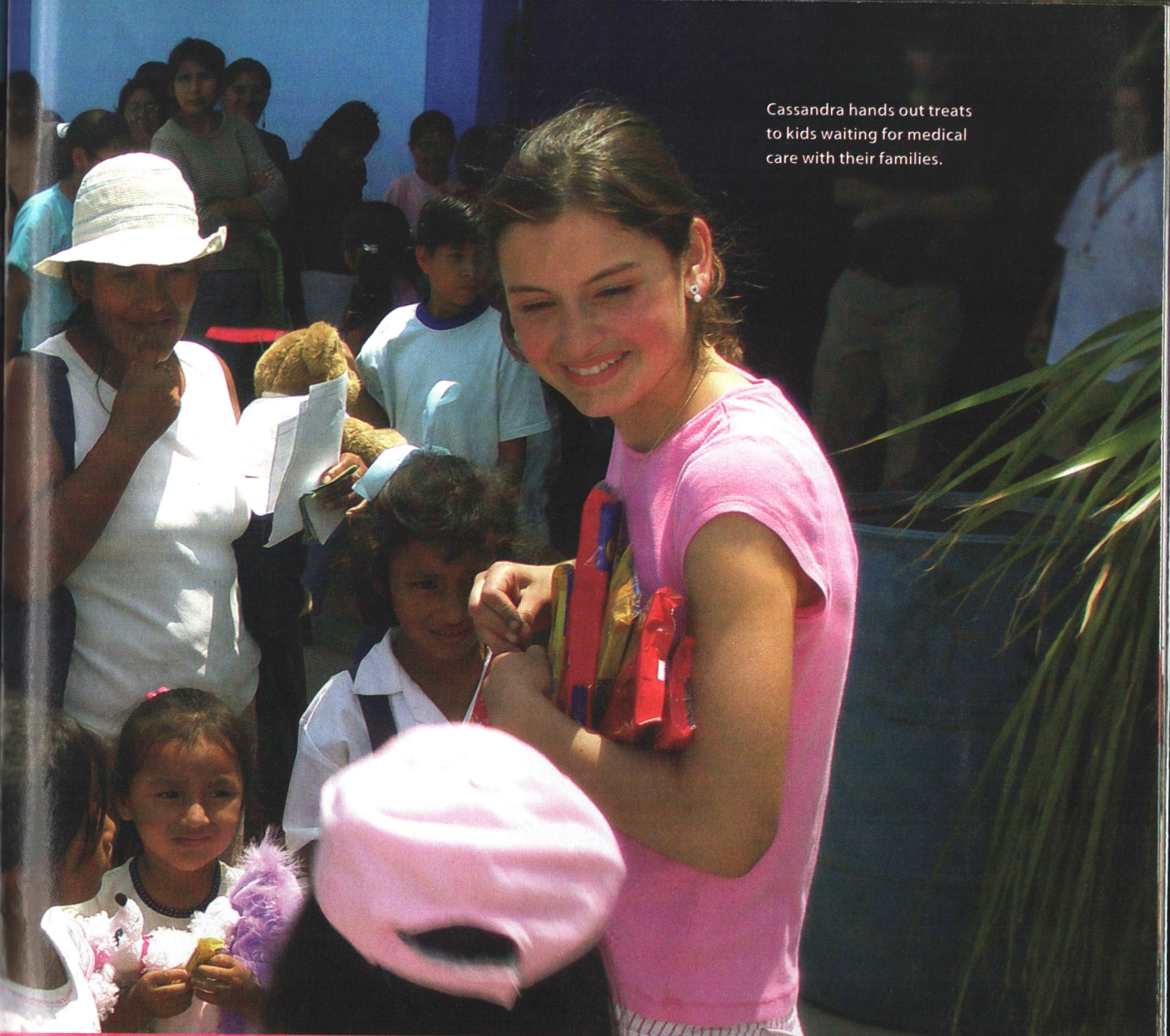
OR

keep them to yourself?

Send your best ideas for
questions to the address
on page 7. ★



A Helping Hand



Cassandra hands out treats to kids waiting for medical care with their families.

When her doctor dad went to help needy people in foreign countries, Cassandra R. got to go along. There, she found her own ways to make a difference.

My dad is a doctor, and he has always taught me how important it is to help other people. But like a lot of kids, I was never sure what I could do to help. Sometimes my dad goes on medical missions, which means he travels with other doctors to poorer countries, offering free medical care to needy people. When I was 8, my dad was getting ready for a medical mission to Central America. He invited me to go along, and I said yes right away. I thought it might be my chance to make a difference.

My family and I live in a safe, sunny neighborhood in California. It's pretty easy for us to get the things we need, but that's not true for many people all over the world. The first medical mission would take my dad and me to Guatemala (pronounced GWAH-tuh-MA-luh). There,

many people are hungry, or they don't have enough clothing or good places to live, or they don't get medical care. Most people in Guatemala speak Spanish. Since

It felt as if we had made a difference.

I've spoken Spanish all my life as well as English, I would be able to talk to patients and translate for them. I'd have a chance to help in other ways, too.

My dad and I got to the airport with huge duffel bags full of stuff. We had toys

and candy to give away to kids, as well as shoes, clothing, and supplies. Once we arrived, we saw that everything we'd brought was greatly needed. People waited in very long lines to see the doctors. Many were barefoot. Most people couldn't afford bus tickets, either, so they had walked from their villages into town. Some people even washed their hair and clothes in a fountain nearby.

I handed out toothbrushes and other donated items. The middle-school kids got clip-on calculators. The next day, we saw the kids wearing them to school. It felt as if we had made a difference already.

When we worked, I got to help the doctors and nurses. I wore a doctor's smock, carried supplies to the medical stations, and helped the nurses take people's blood pressure. It was really

Handing out boxes to make sure that medical trash is thrown out safely

Helping one girl figure out a new toy



helpful that I could speak Spanish. It meant that I could help the doctors give instructions to the patients.

At night, we slept in an orphanage. The kids there had *nothing*. At home, I have my own room, but at the orphanage, at least six kids shared each room. They were very poor, and their lives were almost nothing like mine. But in many ways, they were just like kids anywhere. They liked to have fun and play games. And they were all really nice to me.

The mission lasted less than two weeks, but ever since I'd gone to Guatemala, I had wanted to do more to help people. So when I was 11, my dad took me on another mission, this time to the South American country of Peru.

I took patients in to see the doctors,

and I helped my dad give out medications. In Spanish, I would give people directions for taking the medicine. Also, I got to supervise kids while their

I don't take as much for granted anymore.

parents were with the doctors. I drew pictures with them and helped them to learn the alphabet. I could even comfort the kids who were scared—some of them had never been to see a doctor, and I could talk to them in their language

and help them feel better.

I'll always remember one boy there. His mom couldn't walk very well. Her knee was swollen and painful, and she limped. When she got a shot of medicine to help her knee, the boy cried, but later he said, "I'm so glad you helped my mom. Now she'll be able to work to feed my family."

It made me happy to make things a little better for kids like that boy. His life is so different from mine. I'm turning 13, and going on missions has changed the way I see my own life. I realize how lucky I am to have meals whenever I'm hungry or to see a doctor whenever I get sick. After traveling to other parts of the world, I don't take as much for granted anymore. And since I've been lucky enough to have chances to make a difference, I'll take new opportunities whenever I can. ★

Experiencing the local way of life



Getting the nicest thank-you from one happy girl



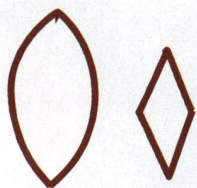
Wild Things

Make cute crafts from things you can find in your own backyard.

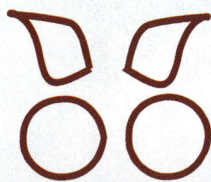
Let's stick together!

Perfectly Perched

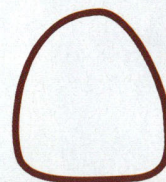
Make a fuzzy feathered friend to top a twig. Photocopy the shapes on this page to use as patterns. Then cut the shapes out from felt. Use craft or fabric glue to attach the shapes to a large pom-pom. Let dry. Use dimensional fabric paint to add eyes. Glue your bird to a twig and let it dry again.



bluebird wing and beak



owl eyes and ears



owl tummy



owl beak

Nature Notebook

Decorate a journal to show off your love for the outdoors. First, create a nutty bookmark. Find two acorns and remove the tops. Using craft glue, attach one end of a pretty piece of ribbon to one acorn, and then attach the other end to the second acorn. Glue the tops back on. Let dry. Put a large animal sticker on the cover of a plain journal. Sit outside with your notebook and make up stories about things you see in your yard.

What a deer journal!

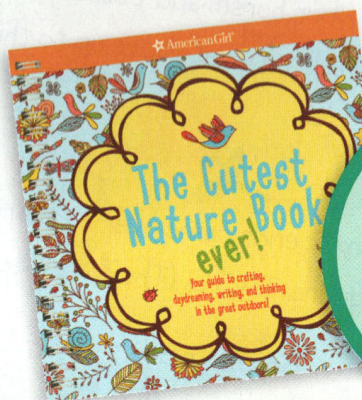


We're
bzzz-est
friends!

Rock Insects

Craft up some cute, funny bugs. Collect rocks from your yard and use acrylic paint to make the bugs' bodies. Let dry. Then use craft glue to attach chenille

stems for antennae and legs. Use felt to make wings. You can also make the bugs look silly by adding googly eyes or a ribbon for a bow tie.



More outdoor
crafts and activities
can be found in *The
Cutest Nature Book
Ever!*, available in
bookstores. ★

Sorry So Sloppy

Abby needs advice on a boy problem
from Jordan, her friend-who's-a-boy.
But what's *Jordan's* problem?

by Megan McDonald
and Richard Haynes

Hey, Jordan,

L.T.N.L! (Long Time No Letter!) I'm writing with the purple moon pen you gave me. It's Abby (duh), your long-lost superfic PEN PAL! Are we still pals? I didn't write since school got out for summer because I was soooooo busy with swim team. (Go, Stingrays!)

And guess what? (bad news alert) **I BROKE MY ELBOW!!!** I was practicing my speed turn when this kid, Tucker Nelson, was showing off to his friends and cannonballed almost on top of me. My elbow slammed into the wall. **OUCH!** I saw stars!! (Not the night-sky kind.)

Bad news: My arm hit the side of the pool.

Good news: I didn't break my whole arm, just the elbow.

Bad news: I had to go to the E.R.

Good news: I got a way-cool cast! It looks like a frozen lime-green juice bar!

Bad news: My arm hurts.

Good news: I'm finally writing to you!

So...enough about me. How's Minnesota? Is the snow gone yet? (Ha, ha. It's the end of June!!) How are Spud (your horse) and Potato Chip (your sister)?

WRITE BACK and tell me what you're up to this summer! Are you playing any sports?

Y.P.P. (Your Pen Pal)

Abby

P.S. My swim team friends came over to sign my cast. They wrote all over my letter to you, too. Please ignore. **T.A.S.G.** (They Are Super Goofy.)

Broken elbows make it hard to write!

Sorry
o
lloppy!

Hi Jordan!

Good Luck
Jordan

Write Back Soon!

Dear Abby,

Sorry to hear about your elbow! I've got elbow troubles of my own. I'm up to my elbows in dirt! Remember that purple watermelon I told you my dad was trying to grow? We are growing a whole field of them—trying to get the perfect one so that we can win a prize at the state fair. So far, they're only about as big as a quarter.

Gotta go. Am on slug patrol.

Good news: In the Battle of the Slugs, I'm winning so far.

Bad news: They keep coming back!

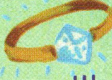
Jordan

P. S. Are you eating a lot of    (elbow) macaroni? Ha ha ha ha

Sorry
so
muddy!



Dear Jordan,

I am bored x 10. It is so BO +  having a broken elbow.

Did I mention...  M  !!!

TEN THINGS YOU CAN'T DO WITH A BROKEN ELBOW

1. Can't swim on the team with all your friends.
2. Can't scratch your elbow when it's itchy. (I named my cast Itchy!)
3. Can't take a shower or get it wet.
4. Can't win at arm wrestling your BABY brother!!
5. Can't do the dishes. (Really miss that...NOT!)
6. Can't put your own hair in pigtails.



What I looked like after my brother did my pigtails for me



I can't finish my list because I need help! Remember I told you about Tucker? He lives near me and we used to be friends, but ever since I broke my elbow (because of him), he acts mad at me. Or he ignores me. What's going on? I'm the one who should be mad.

N. B. A. (Need Boy Advice.)

Good luck  with the purple  watermelon. 

Abby

Dear Pen Pal Jordan,

You are only a **PEN** pal if you

WRITE BACK!!

Is your moon pen out of ink
or what?

Are you ignoring me like Tucker?

Did the slugs eat you?

Signed,

The Abster

(a. k. a. The **CRAB**ster)

Dear Jordan,

R U there? Hellooooooooooooo

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

No one.

No one who?

No one's answering my pen-pal letters!

Bored in Sausalito,

Abs

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Ello.

Ello who?

'Ello, mate! 'Ows the elbow?

Dear Itchy and Abby,

Sorry I couldn't write back—I got eaten alive by mutant mosquitoes!

Boy, did they make a meal out of me.

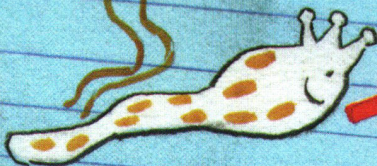
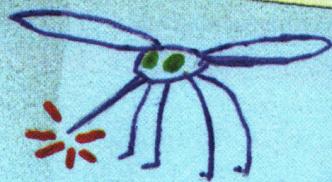
I've been on slug patrol night and day (the snails and slugs come out early
in the morning and at night and take over the planet).

My dad says we have an especially big crop of slugs this year. Can you believe
some birds eat these slimeballs and think they taste great? GROSS times ten.
If I had a nickel for every slug, I'd be a gazillionaire by now.

Sorry you're bored. Here's a maze to take your mind off your elbow, inspired
by slug slime trails. Help Sluggo slime his way to the center of the maze:

Happy trails,
Jordan

Sorry
so
mudgy!



Dear Jordan,



GO
STINGRAYS



I got your SNAIL mail. Ha ha ha. That maze was a-maze-ing!

Tucker still won't look at me.

S.N.B.A. (Still Need Boy Advice!)

The A-maze-ing Abs



E EEEEEK

P.S. Meet Stick Man, the slug-busting scarecrow!
(But secretly, I think he's scared of slugs.)

↑
Tucker



real dirt →



real dirt →



Dear Abby,

Here's my advice. (Hey, wait! I thought DEAR ABBY was the one who's supposed to give the advice! Heh heh.)

Your friend Tucker is probably majorly embarrassed. (News flash: boys get embarrassed, too.) Don't make a big deal—just tell him you know it was an accident and you're not mad.

Stick Man really works!

One of the watermelons is already as big as a softball. Dad says it's looking like a champ. This could be the one. And I only had to pull **23** slugs this morning.

I call my dad the Watermelon Whisperer because he has been talking to the watermelon! How crazy is that? He wants me to talk to them, too.

W.T.W! (Way Too Weird!!!!!!!)

Jordan

real dirt →



P. S. Sending Stick Man (along with pix of the watermelon). What do you think of the hair and mustache I made for him? Send him back soon—I need his help!!!

P. P. S. Do NOT use Stick Man to scratch Itchy!



Dear Jordan,

Guess what!? **It worked!!!**

I did exactly what you said. Wow! Tucker thought I was mad AT HIM!

Now he has stopped acting weird. He even came over to play a BOARD-not-BORED game with my little brother and me. (Since all my friends are at the pool 24/7 and I can't get wet!)
Boo hoo hoo.

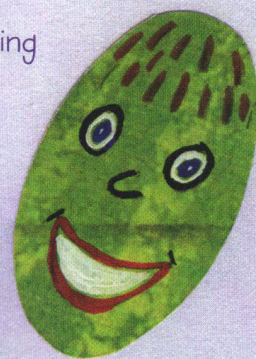


Watermelon, watermelon, watermelon...that's all you talk about. I'm going to have to start calling you **Melon Head!**

What else is up with you BESIDES purple watermelon?

Abs, Queen of Board Games

P.S. Love the hair! I made Stick Man a jacket out of that seed packet you sent me. What do you think? Back to you.



Abby,

You don't get it.

I know you broke your elbow, and I feel bad, but growing the world's first purple (on the inside) watermelon is NOT all fun and games. Sorry if I'm boring you with all my watermelon stuff, but it's really way important!!

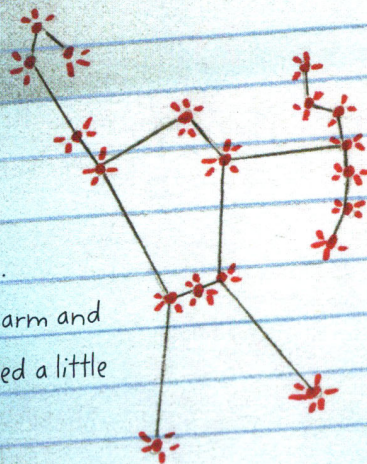
Not only has my dad been working on this for the past three years, but he also lost his other job. So we are growing the purple watermelon not just to sell at the Farmers' Market, but also to try to win the grand prize at the state fair in August. It could be a great thing for our family.

G.T.G. (Got To Go.)

J-Man

P. S. Stick Man rocks with his new jacket!! Thanks.

P. P. S. I have 11 mosquito bites on one side of my arm and 8 on the other side. When I connected them, it looked a little like the constellation Orion!!



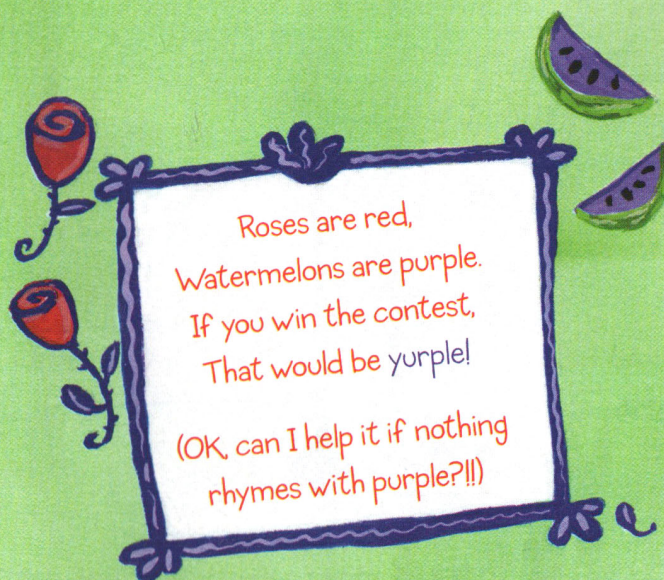
Jordan,
I'm so so so so so sorry! I had no idea the whole watermelon thing
was so important.

Sorry about your dad, too. I hope hope hope you guys grow the greatest,
most purplest watermelon in the world!!

Here's a funny poem to share with your
watermelon buddies (in case you decide
to become a Junior Watermelon Whisperer).

Love the pix of your watermelon.
How big is The Champ now? Send more!
Abby

P.S. We don't have mosquitoes out here.
So I drew a mosquito-bite Orion on my cast!!



Dear Abby,

I am on a super-important stakeout that I dubbed S. S. S. (Super Slug Stakeout.) Remember way
back when we first started being pen pals and you asked me if I liked sleepovers? I never thought
I'd be on a Slug Slime SLEEPOVER! Hardee-har.

Yep, believe it or not, I'm camping (with mosquito netting!) in the middle of the watermelon
field, writing to you by flashlight. Only two more weeks till the state fair. The Champ is as big
as a bowling ball!

We got invaded by an army of ninja rabbits last night. I guess they like bowling!
Lost a dozen good-sized watermelons.

So, I'm sleeping out to protect The Champ.

I stuck Stick Man in the dirt to protect The Champ from slug slime.

I have to quit calling it The Champ because I have to help Dad think up
a prize-winning name for real in time for the big contest.

You're great at naming stuff. Any ideas?

Slime  U L-8-R

Jordan, the Junior Watermelon Whisperer



Dear Jordan,

I love thinking up fun names. I've been working super hard (not with ELBOW grease, but with brain power) to come up with some great names for The Champ. I've attached a list for you.

H.O.O.T.W. (Hope One Of Them Works!)

Abby

TOP TEN CHAMPION WATERMELON NAMES:

1. Mr. Purple
2. Purpicious
3. Purple Princess (or Prince)
4. Purple People Pleaser
5. Purplepalooza
6. The Pied Purpler
7. Velvet Night Cafe
8. Rip Van Periwinkle
9. Queen Violet
10. Electric Purple Jolt

Dear Jordan,

Every day I run to the mailbox to check for a letter from you. I haven't had one in forever. I know you're super way busy, so don't sweat it if you can't write back. It's only a few more days until the watermelon contest at the state fair.

- Are you nervous? Excited?
- Are you camping out every night on Slug Patrol Duty?
- Are you on a Ravenous Rabbit Rampage?
- Do you have a Mosquito Milky Way on your arm?

Guess what? I have been looking 4-ever for a double lucky stone (one with two holes all the way through) for you. Guess what again? I went to Point Reyes (a beach near here). My brother and I hiked around on some rocks, and...guess what again-again? I found (in a tide pool) one red starfish, 17 gazillion sea anemones (weird!), two hermit crabs, and one real and actual **LUCKY STONE** for you! It's not doubly lucky, but it's still pretty lucky. I'm taping it here to wish you super good luck.

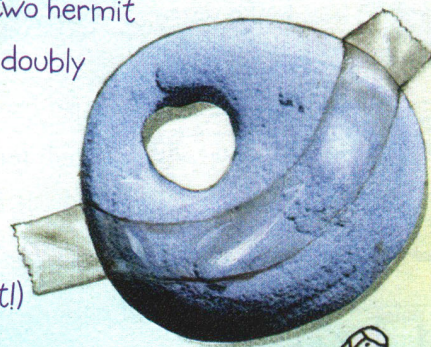
I CAN'T WAIT to hear what happens (but I will).

B.O.L.I.K.Y.W.D.G. (Best Of Luck I Know You Will Do Great!)

Abs

Sorry
or
silly!

I forgot to tell you the biggest news of all. Itchy comes off in one week! My brother says my arm will be all gross and wrinkly and mummified. Yuck! I hope not.



Dear Abby,

Did you get my postcard? Sorry I couldn't write sooner. It was super crazy at the state fair and millions of people crowded around and were super freaking out about our purple watermelon and it was so exciting and I still can't believe we actually **WON 1st prize!**

Longest sentence in the history of pen pals.

It was worth every mosquito bite!



M on 9!!!



I guess your lucky stone worked. Thanks thanks thanks thanks thanks. And guess what else? The name of the winning watermelon is

Purple People Pleaser! Thanks so much for all your ideas—I think they helped us win.

And that's not all. So many people want purple watermelons that my dad is going to start a seed company, called Purple Pleaser Watermelon Seeds! How cool is that?

I'm sending you lucky seeds here:

So you can grow your own purple melon. That would be **YURPLE!**

Your purple pen pal,

Jordan

Dear Jordan,

CONGRATS!!!

That is just so completely cool and way exciting that you won the contest. I liked the picture of you with your blue ribbon. I made a prize for you, too.

Here is a **PURPLE** ribbon for **BEST-EVER GRAND-PRIZE NUMBER ONE PEN PAL!**

Itchy finally came off! PU!!! First thing I did was go swimming. The Stingrays all came over and had a "cast away" party for me. Hee-hee. We ate watermelon, but it was just plain red. Next summer I'm only eating purple.

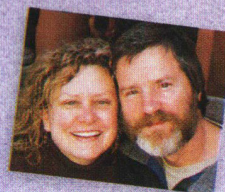
Have a **S**uper unny (rest of your) ummer!

Abby ★



Meet the Authors

Megan McDonald
Richard Haynes

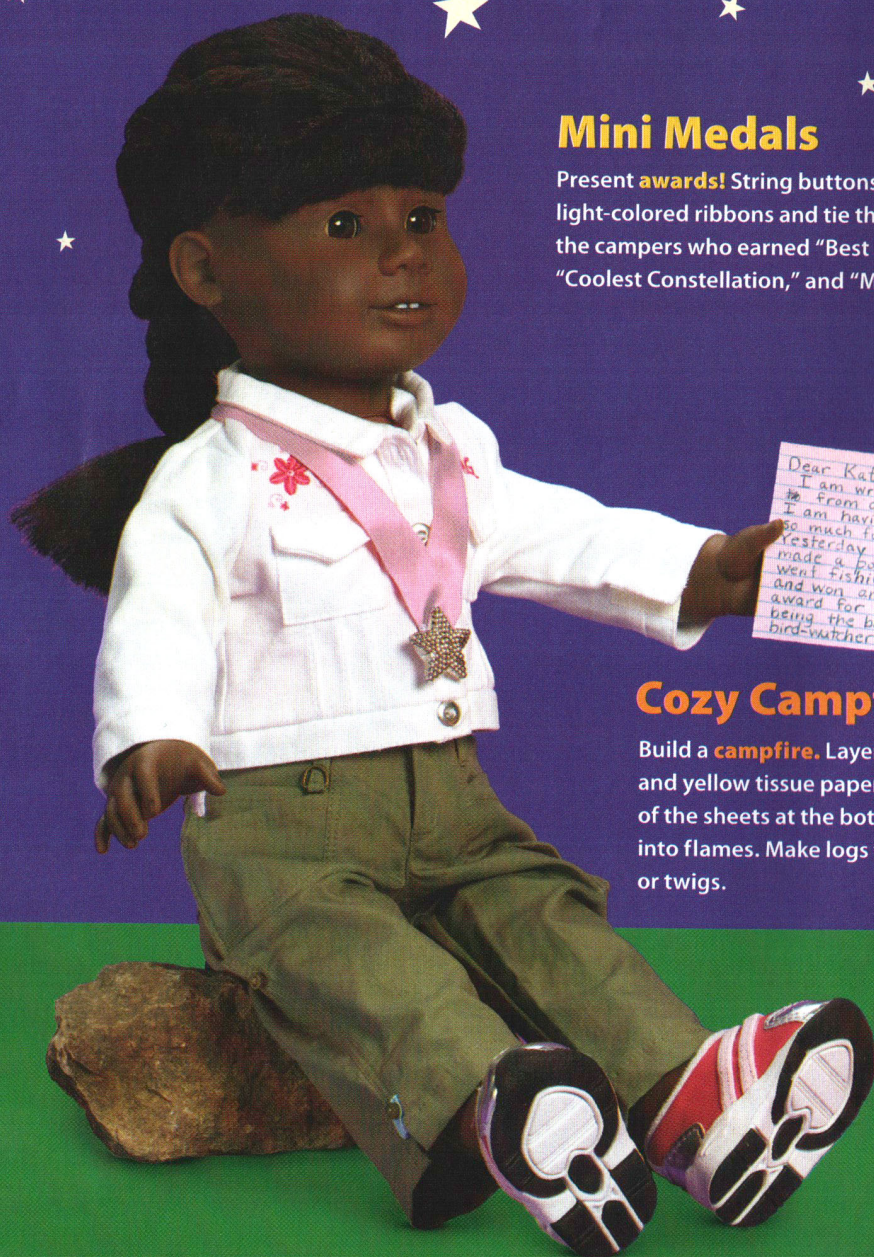


We like to grow veggies!

We grow purple peppers, green beans, and potatoes in our garden in California.

Happy Campers

Send your doll and her friends to summer camp!



Mini Medals

Present **awards!** String buttons onto light-colored ribbons and tie them onto the campers who earned "Best Bird-Watcher," "Coolest Constellation," and "Master Artist."

Nice Notes

Write **letters.** Teach your doll how to write a letter home. Show her how to write a personal story and fun ways to sign her name.

Cozy Campfire

Build a **campfire.** Layer a few sheets of orange and yellow tissue paper. Squeeze the center of the sheets at the bottom, and cut the tops into flames. Make logs from cinnamon sticks or twigs.





Twinkle Time

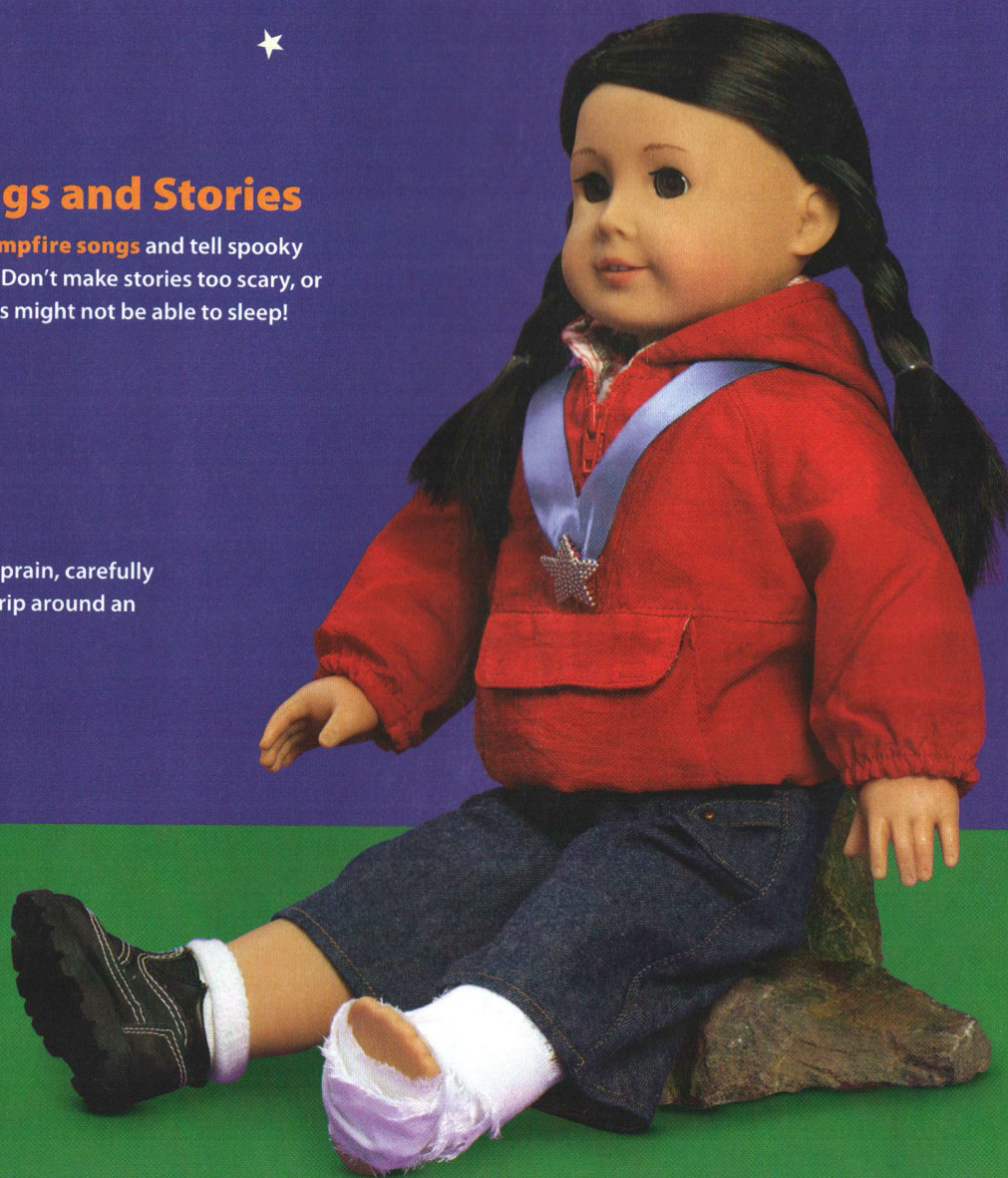
Find a **constellation**. Randomly draw stars on a piece of paper. Ask campers to connect the stars into a constellation and name it.

Songs and Stories

Sing **campfire songs** and tell spooky stories. Don't make stories too scary, or campers might not be able to sleep!

Ouch!

Give **first aid**. For a sprain, carefully wrap a white cloth strip around an ankle or wrist. ★



Puzzle Palooza

Photo Fun

Haley P., age 9, from Texas is holding a cute balloon octopus! Study the details in this photo, and then turn to page 50 to answer the questions and test your memory.

Send your fun photos to the address on page 7.

Illustrations: Karen Wolcott

Marine Math

Add the fish together and see if you can fin-ish these math problems!

 = 1
  = 2
  = 3

1.     = _____

2.      = _____

3.      
    = _____

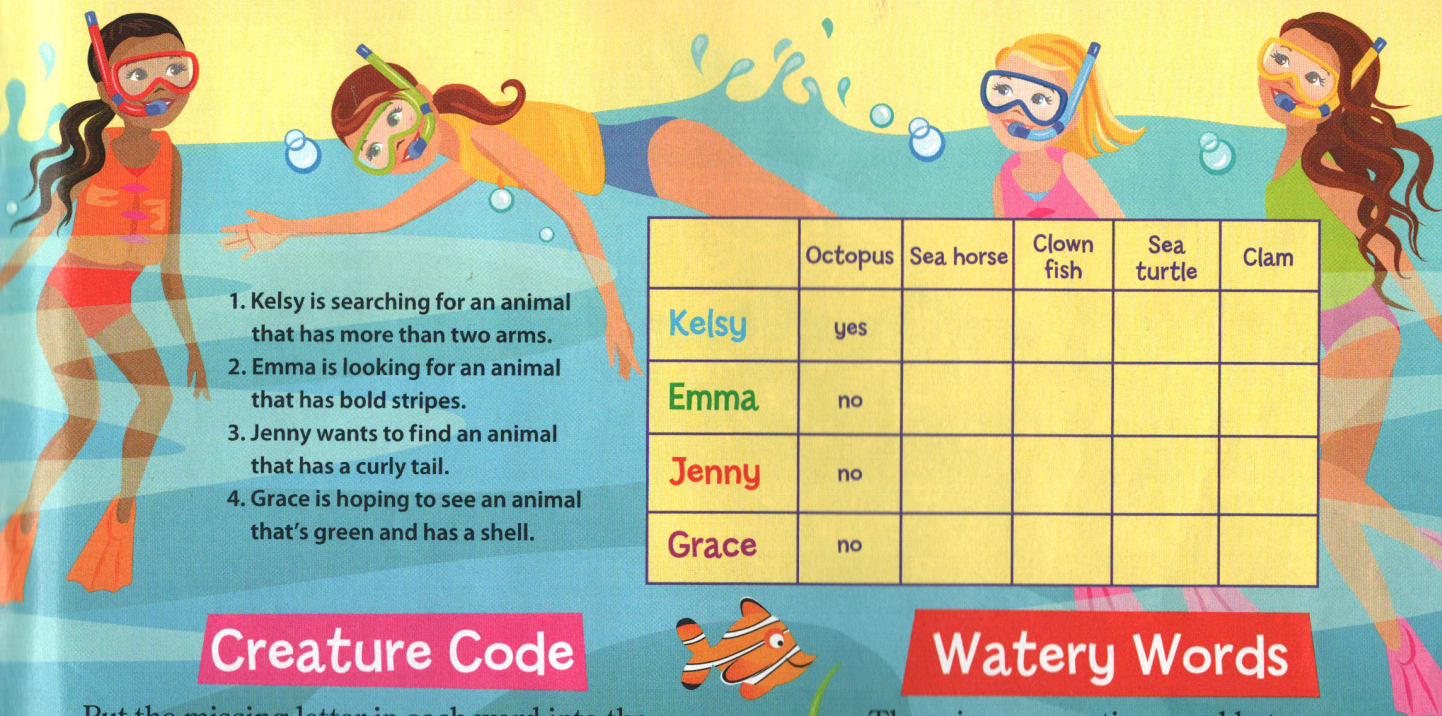
4.      
     
    = _____

5.      
     
    = _____

Sea Search

Snorkeling friends Kelsy, Emma, Jenny, and Grace want to see lots of sea creatures. Each girl is looking for a specific animal.

Use the clues below to fill in the chart and discover the creatures the girls are looking for. We've done the first one for you.



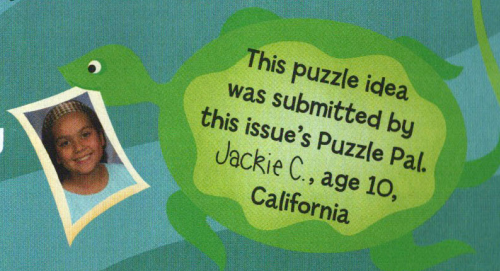
1. Kelsy is searching for an animal that has more than two arms.
2. Emma is looking for an animal that has bold stripes.
3. Jenny wants to find an animal that has a curly tail.
4. Grace is hoping to see an animal that's green and has a shell.

	Octopus	Sea horse	Clown fish	Sea turtle	Clam
Kelsy	yes				
Emma	no				
Jenny	no				
Grace	no				

Creature Code

Put the missing letter in each word into the corresponding blank. Then read down the added letters to find out Jackie's favorite animal.

1. Sna□l
2. Turt□e
3. Sn□rkeling
4. Wa□es
5. J□llyfish
6. San□
7. C□ral
8. Sea□
9. S□onge
10. W□ale
11. F□sh
12. Sti□gray
13. □tarfish



Want to be an AG Puzzle Pal? Send puzzles, secret codes, or brainteasers created by YOU to the address on page 7.

Watery Words

There is a connecting word between these compound words. Can you think of each missing word?

We've done the first one for you.

1. salt water skiing
2. star _____ bowl
3. light _____ boat
4. sea _____ fish
5. swim _____ case



This issue's Buzzword is ... **aquamarine**

How to say it: ah-kwa-ma-REEN

What it means: a light blue-green color

One way to use it: The water looked aquamarine as Natalie swam in the ocean.

The word *aquamarine* is hidden in each wave once.

Look for the words and circle them.

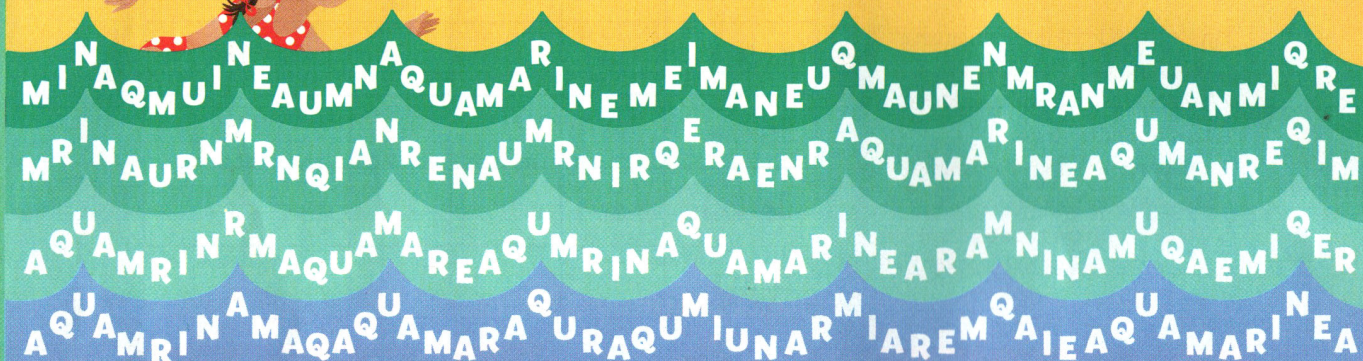


Photo Fun

1. How long is Haley's hair?

2. What kind of pattern is on the sleeves of Haley's swimsuit?

3. What color are the octopus's arms?

4. How many umbrellas are in the background?

Answer Box



Buzzword

Jenny: Sea horse; Grace: Sea turtle
Kelly: Octopus; Emma: Clown fish;
15 flamingos

Behind the Scenes

1. water; 2. fish; 3. house; 4. shell;
5. suit

Watery Words

1 LOVE DOLPHINS
Creature Code

Sea Search

1. 7; 2. 10; 3. 18; 4. 31; 5. 30

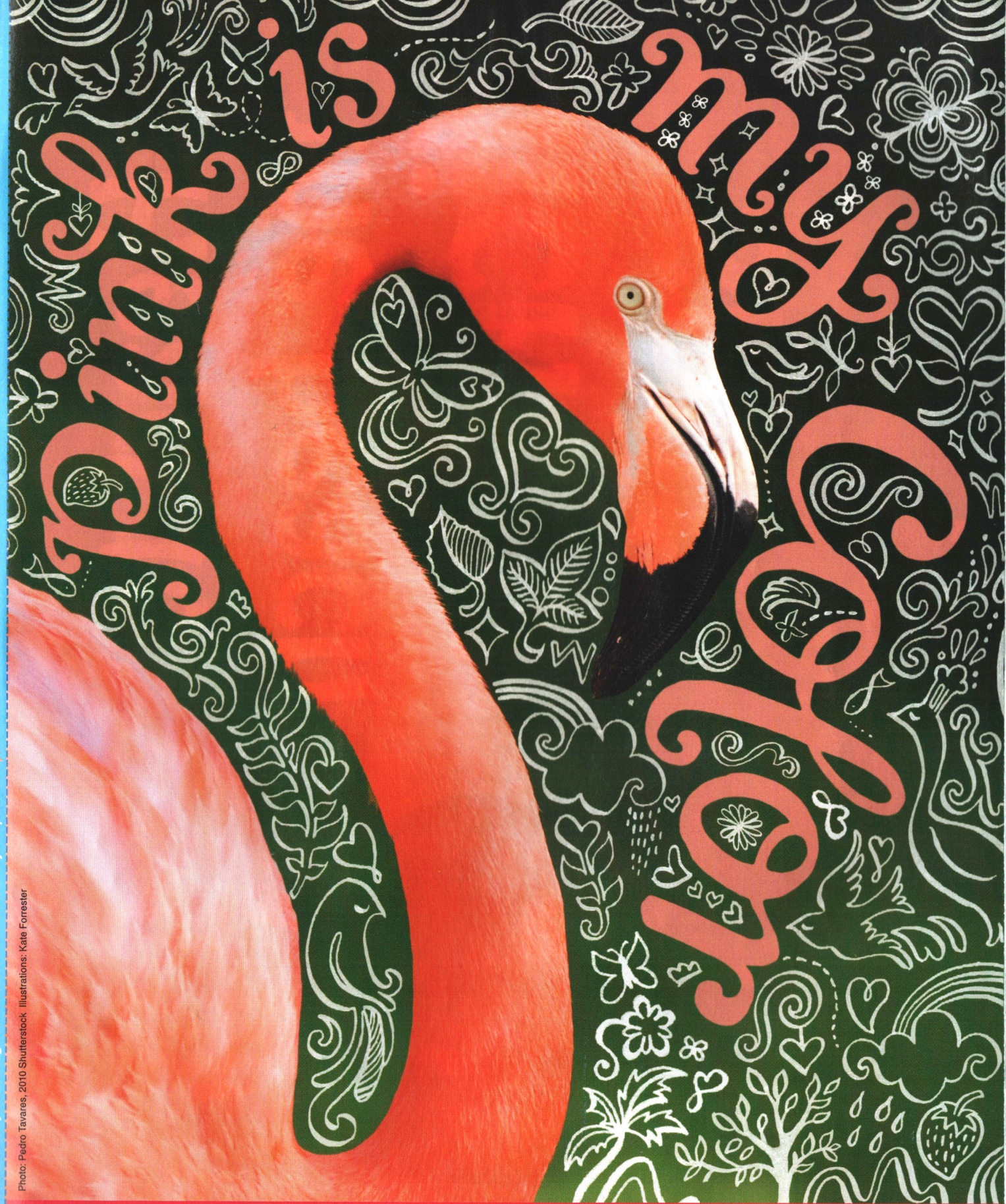
Marine Math

3. Purple; 4. Three
1. To her shoulders; 2. Polka dots;

Photo Fun

Posters: Carefully cut along the dotted lines to remove your posters. ✨

Photo: Pedro Tavares, 2010 Shutterstock Illustrations: Kate Forrester



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Head to the beach lickety- split!



 American Girl®

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HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I'm afraid of bees! I can't help it. People tease me for freaking out when I see a bee. It makes me not even want to go outside in summer.

bzzzzz

One of the best things about summer is playing outside, so tackle this fear by thinking calmly whenever you spot a bee. Bees usually sting only when they feel threatened. Swatting at a bee or running around might make the bee angry or upset, so sit still—or walk away slowly—and stay calm. Repeat this silently to yourself: *See a bee? Do not flee!*



Dear American Girl,

I want to be fashionable, but I don't know how. My mom doesn't shop much, and even if I had a lot of money to spend, I wouldn't know what to get.

wanting fashion

Start by experimenting with the clothes you already have. Pick a shirt out of your closet and use it to make an outfit you've never worn before. Also, try using items in new ways—a belt worn loosely over a shirt, or a necklace wrapped into a bracelet. You'll know you're finding your style when your outfits make you feel good about yourself.



Dear American Girl,

My parents tell me to clean my room. When I do clean it, they only see what I *haven't* done, not all the things I did. How can I make them see my work?

Messy

Tell your parents that their reaction makes you feel bad. Ask if you can start by pointing out what you've done so far and tell them what you have left to do. Then they can add anything else that needs to be done. Learning to keep a clean room takes time, but if you do a little every day and have a place for everything, cleaning will get easier.



Dear American Girl,

My friends tell me secrets—but I can't keep them! I love to have people pay attention to me, and I get so tempted to share secrets that sometimes I do.

center of attention

Since trust is the glue that holds friendships together, you've got to zip your lip before you learn this lesson the hard way. When you're tempted to talk, ask someone a question on a completely different topic—it'll distract you and get your mind on something other than spilling your friends' secrets. This one is a biggie. Don't blow it.



MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

My parents say I need to be in a summer sport. But I like all sports and don't know which is right for me. How do I choose?

Sport Crazy

How about picking the sport that you need the least equipment to play? That way, your parents won't have to buy gear for a sport you're not sure is right for you. Also, find out if a friend is doing a summer sport—if you joined her team, you'd have someone to hang out with. Have fun!



Dear American Girl,

Three of my friends started a "band." They're not very good, but they always talk about how they'll be famous one day and ride around in limos. I don't want to be in the band, but it still makes me feel left out. The band is ruining our friendship.

band trouble

Your friends are having fun trying something new, and when they talk about being famous, they're just sharing their dreams. You

don't have to be a band superfan, but you can't control your friends' conversations. If it gets to be too much, change the subject, suggest an activity—or get involved in something that you think is fun.



Dear American Girl,

My sister sprained her ankle. Suddenly, she's ordering me around and expecting me to do everything for her. I know her injury is a big deal, but I don't like how she's treating me. what should I do?



Your sister might feel frustrated with her injury—and she might still be in pain. But that's not a free pass for her to be bossy. Let her know that if she *asks* instead of *tells* you what to do, she's more likely to get some help. Also, talk to your parents and ask how much they expect you to pitch in.



Dear American Girl,

I've been babysitting a little boy. The parents said once that I should charge for my time. But they never mentioned it again! How can I bring it up?

I don't know

Talk to your own parents about what is a fair rate to charge. Then go to your neighbors and say: "Remember when you suggested that I should charge for my time? I think I'm ready to do that. I've had a lot of fun watching your son, and I hope you'll want to hire me in the future." If they can't pay you or don't agree to, then you'll need to consider whether you want to keep working for free. Good luck!





Dear American Girl,

My life is so boring. I ask my mom to do crafts with me, but she's too busy. What can I do?
boring girl

At a time when your mom's not busy, tell her that you miss spending time with her and ask to make a date to create some crafts. If you plan ahead, she might be able to find time. In the meantime, find your own fun. Ask your mom if you can rearrange your room, join a book club at the library, or have a friend over. For even more boredom busters, turn to page 26.

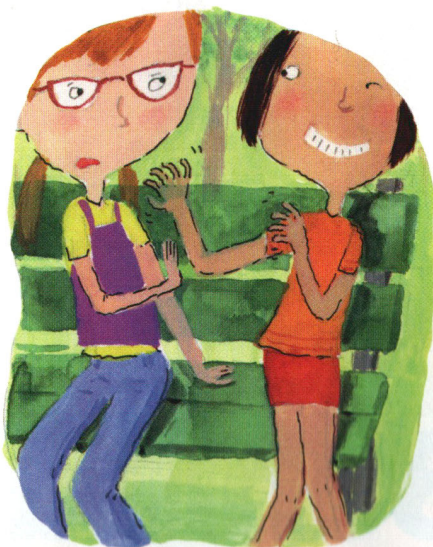


Dear American Girl,

I have a friend who won't stop tickling me! It's not like she hurts me or anything, but she won't stop when I ask her to. It gets annoying.

STOP!

"STOP!" probably doesn't sound so forceful when you're giggling like crazy! Since you need your friend to get that message, talk to her when she's not tickling you. Explain that you really don't like



being tickled—even if it seems as if you're having fun. Ask her in a serious tone to NOT tickle you anymore. If she does it again, remind her of your conversation and let her know that to you, tickling is no laughing matter.



Dear American Girl,

My best friend's family is from another country. At her house, I feel uncomfortable and avoid talking to her parents. Everything is so different there.

out of place

At your friend's house, you might hear another language, smell unfamiliar food, or see different customs being practiced. Give yourself a chance to understand these things—they won't seem so

odd when they're more familiar. Politely ask your friend for advice or information: "What should I call your parents?" "What's the best way to eat this?" "Do you ever visit the country where your parents grew up?" Learning more about your friend is a great way to strengthen the friendship. You'll know more about the world, too.



Advice from You

"It's OK to do your own thing, instead of always doing what your friends want to do. When my friends wanted to play volleyball one day but I felt like playing soccer, I excused myself and went to join a soccer game. I felt happy that I had made my own choice."

Jeanah H.

Age 14, Minnesota

Need advice? Got advice? Write:
Help!

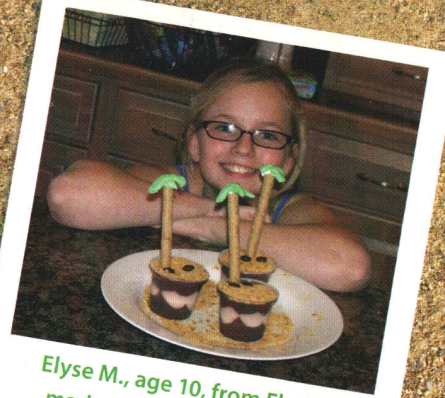
American Girl magazine

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



Audra B.

Sisters **Veronica B.**, age 9, and **Audra B.**, age 7, from Pennsylvania sent us fabric beach towels that they sewed themselves for our contest. To "sea" more beach towels from girls like you, go to "Start the fun" at americangirlmagazine.com.



Elyse M., age 10, from Florida made these Dessert Islands from our Splash Bash.



Veronica B.

We were all tickled pink when we saw how many flamingos are in this issue. Try to count all of the flamingos, and then turn to page 50 for the answer.

Behind the Scenes

Everything's beachy keen here at *American Girl* magazine!

Morgan O., age 9, from Washington tested out the fireworks T-shirt from To Do Today.

Nice job, girls!



If you liked "Sorry So Sloppy," you can read another story about Abby and Jordan. Go to "Start the fun" at americangirlmagazine.com and read "P.S. Write Back Soon."



Emilie G., age 11, sent us a message in a bottle all the way from Kansas.

In her note, she says, "I LOVE your magazine!"

Take a behind-the-scenes peek at our photo shoot. Go to "Start the fun" at americangirlmagazine.com.



Time for a lemonade break!

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Coming up in the September/October issue of *American Girl* magazine

"What now?"

Learn what you should do when you are faced with a sticky situation at school.

Cool for School

See girls' locker designs that can do a lot more than just stash their stuff.

Class Bash

Celebrate the start of the school year and throw a fun party with your friends.

Amazing Stories

Read about ordinary girls who lead extraordinary lives.



For more fun
and games, go to
americangirlmagazine.com
and click on "Start the Fun!"

True-Blue

Friends



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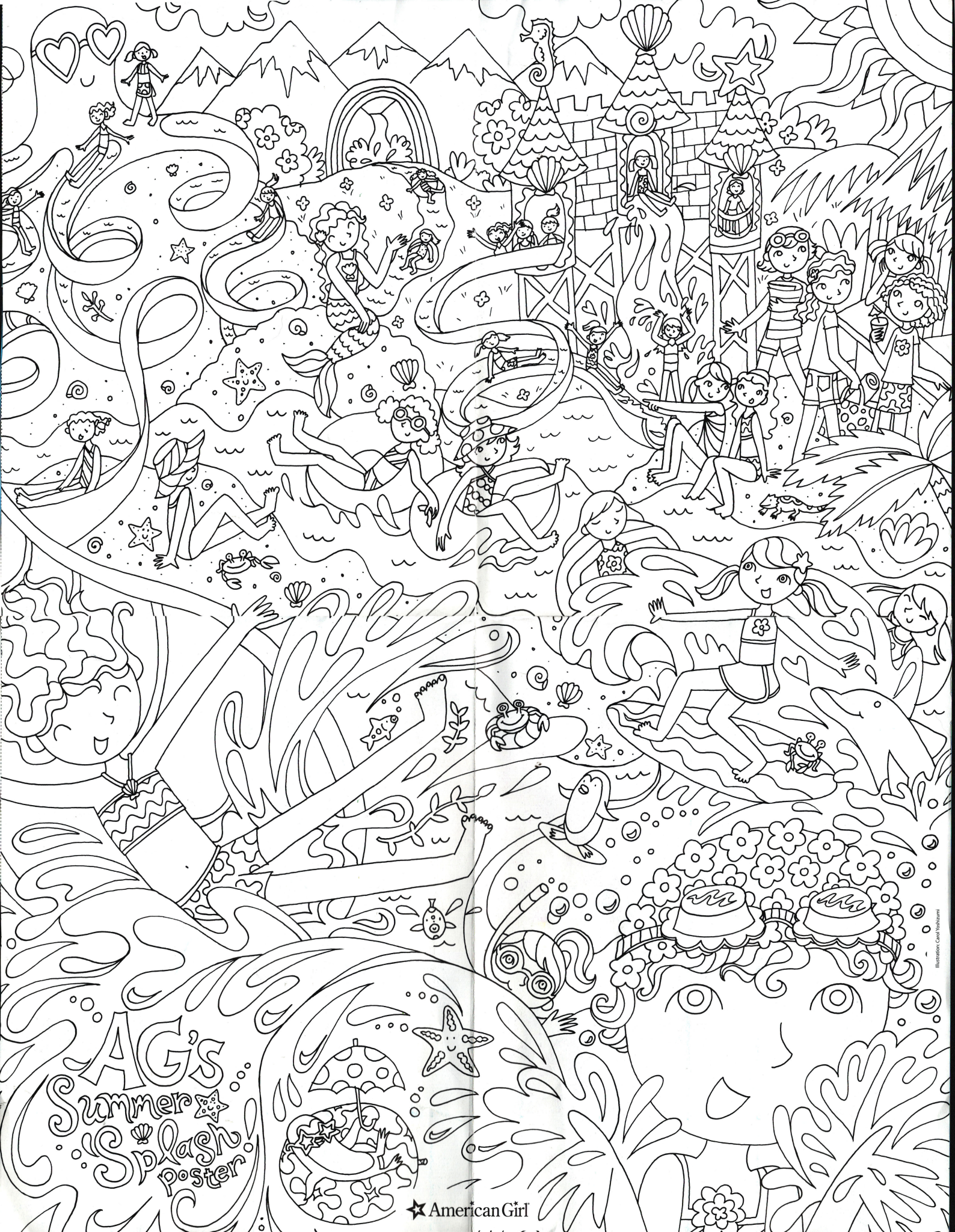


Illustration: Carol Rothman

AG's
Summer
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poster